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Carter reassures Israel

Fiscal package defended

WASHINGTON, March 15 (AP) — President Jimmy Carter said Friday night that his economic proposals, including federal spending cuts, "will be painful and will not work overnight," but are necessary to curb inflation.

Carter addressed a news conference following a speech earlier in which he outlined his proposals for cutting U.S. government spending by \$14 billion while increasing revenues by \$13 billion, imposing a gasoline conservation tax of 2.6 cents a liter and limiting the use of credit cards by consumers.

"I must tell you very frankly that the results will not be immediate," Carter said in an opening statement.

Responding to a question, Carter took full responsibility for the U.S. vote in the United Nations criticizing Israel, saying it was "an honest breakdown in communications."

Carter to celebrate Camp David accords

WASHINGTON, March 15 (AP) — President Jimmy Carter plans to host an anniversary luncheon to celebrate the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, White House sources said.

The sources, asking not to be named, said the luncheon will be held on Sunday, March 23 — two days prior to the New York state Democratic primary and three days before the actual treaty anniversary.

Diplomats from the two countries and some American Jewish leaders are expected to be invited.

Carter's standing with Jewish voters has slipped since the U.S. vote in the U.N. Security Council on March 1 condemning Israel's settlements and its annexation of east Jerusalem.

PLO official meets Jordanians

AMMAN, March 15 (R) — The head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) Political Department Farouk Kaddoumi arrived here Saturday by road from Damascus on a two-day visit to Jordan.

Officials here said that his talks with Jordanian leaders were expected to cover ways and means of effecting common action to support the Arab people under Israeli occupation.

Kaddoumi told reporters at the Jordanian border post of Al-Ramtha that he would discuss questions pertaining to the current Arab situation.

Previous meetings between PLO delegations and Jordanian officials usually dealt with how best to channel funds allotted by the Arab summit conferences to the people living in Israeli occupied territories.

The Arab summit conference held in Baghdad in November 1978 has allotted about \$150 million to support Arabs under occupation.

Revolving restaurant in London to close

LONDON, March 15 (AP) — Britain's tallest restaurant and a popular tourist attraction — the Top of the Tower — is to close after 14 years, its owners announced Saturday.

Situated 620 feet above London's West End at the top of the Post Office Tower, the revolving restaurant will shut its doors on June 14 because its lease with the post office will not be renewed.

Butlins, the restaurant's operators, said the Post Office wants to renew the elevators which have taken diners from the street to their tables for years. Stronger security measures may be installed during the renovation which is slated to be completed in 1983.



ON VISIT: President Jafar Numeiri arrives in Jeddah Saturday on a two-day visit to the Kingdom. The Sudanese leader was received upon arrival by acting Governor of Mecca Prince Saud bin Abdul Mohsen. The president left later Saturday for Mecca to perform minor pilgrimage.

Numeiri on visit for talks

JEDDAH, March 15 (Agencies) — Sudanese President Jafar Numeiri arrived here Saturday on a six-day visit to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. He left here Saturday night for Mecca to perform lesser pilgrimage.

Numeiri and the leaders of the three Arab states are expected to discuss the current situation in the Middle East, as well as financial aid to Sudan.

The Sudanese president is accompanied by a high level delegation which includes Vice President and Foreign Minister Rashid al Tahir.

Earlier in Khartoum, Ethiopia and Sudan have agreed to eliminate all problems between them in what could be the first result of an Arab-African attempt to settle the unrest in the strategic Horn of Africa.

A joint communique released by the Sudanese news agency at the end of a four-day visit to Ethiopia by Sudanese Vice-President Lt. Gen. Abdel-Magid Khalil stressed the two governments' determination to "speedily eliminate all problems and reactivate joint ministerial consultative committees."

Relations between pro-Soviet Ethiopia and Sudan have been strained for the past year because of a revolution in Ethiopia's Eritrean province which has spilled over into southern Sudan.

U.K. pushes proposal for Afghan neutrality

LONDON, March 15 (R) — Britain will push ahead with efforts to get wide international support for its proposal for a neutral Afghanistan despite criticisms by the Afghan and Soviet foreign ministers, British officials said Saturday.

But they declined detailed comment until they had studied the text of statements made in Moscow by the Afghan foreign minister, Shah Mohammad Dost, and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

Dost said the proposal was the action of frustrated "imperialists" while Gromyko appeared to reaffirm the view stated by President Brezhnev that the price of Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan was an end to "outside interference."

The British officials, however, did not interpret Gromyko's remarks as a rejection of the plan as a basis for negotiations.

The suggestion has been endorsed by the eight other European Common Market countries and has the general support of the United States.

Israel announces Arab apartments Palestinians visit State Department

WASHINGTON, March 15 (AP) — Members of a Palestinian group called at the U.S. State Department to try to block Israel from building new housing in a predominantly Arab section of north Jerusalem.

Spokesman for the Palestine Human Rights Campaign told reporters Friday that Israel was acting illegally and that Arab-owned orchards and homes would be confiscated.

A State Department spokesman Wednesday deplored the Israeli decision, saying that it was a unilateral action which tended to prejudice issues the United States feels should be settled in Arab-Israeli negotiations.

But the Palestinian group urged the department to force Israel to rescind its decision. James Zogby, national chairman, said the U.S. government has a responsibility "to end these confiscations and to return the land to the Arab owners."

With Zogby were Hamed and Mahmoud Faraj, two residents of Detroit who said they were from an Arab village, Beit Hamina, near the housing project. Mahmoud said over 1,000 people from the village would lose their homes in what he called "an illegal occupation."

Israeli radio Friday reported the plans for 6,000 apartments for Palestinian Arabs on government-owned land in the Occupied West Bank.

There was no official confirmation of the report, which came five days after Israel's decision to expropriate 1,100 acres of land in the Jerusalem area for Jewish housing. The radio reported that the Arab housing would be near Ramallah, eight kilometers north of Jerusalem, but had no further details.

Marchais asks Arafat visit

PLO spokesman meets Kreisky

VIENNA, March 15 (Agencies) — Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky met Friday with a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their first meeting since Austria officially recognized the PLO Thursday.

Sources close to the chancellery said Kreisky spoke with PLO representative Issam Sartawi. Details were not revealed.

A report from Beirut said PLO chief Yasser Arafat in a telegram thanked Kreisky for recognizing his organization and called the step just and courageous.

Also on Friday the U.S. State Department asked Austria for clarification of the move.

Ludwig Steiner, foreign policy speaker of the opposition People's Party, also called on the Kreisky government for further clarification.

Israel voiced strong protests against the Austrian move in Tel Aviv and Vienna.

Beirut report said Kreisky has affirmed that the strong reaction to granting special diplomatic status to the PLO will not make his country change its stand. The report by the Palestine news agency Wafa said the chancellor was replying to a cable sent by Arafat thanking him for his government's courageous position.

The agency said that in his cabled reply, Dr. Kreisky stressed that his country's "firm stand committed to defending the cause of right and justice in the world and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people will not be affected by the strong reaction of some quarters."

The Austrian chancellor also expressed the hope that both he and Arafat would still have the opportunity to "discuss certain recent questions."

In Paris Communist party chief Georges Marchais has written to President Valery Giscard d'Estaing demanding that he officially recognize the PLO and invite Arafat to Paris, the party newspaper *L'Humanite* reported Saturday.

The paper said Marchais wrote to Giscard d'Estaing that an invitation to Arafat to come here "would not only enhance the prestige of France in the world, but would be concrete proof that the way to negotiation is open and that possibilities of a political solution to the problem exist."

Giscard d'Estaing recently toured the Middle East and became the first leader of a European Common Market country to formally recognize the PLO's right to a role in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Mondale visits Middle East

Cairo magazine hits Carter

CAIRO, March 15 (AP) — Vice President Walter Mondale will visit Egypt and Israel next month, *October* magazine reported Saturday, apparently to soothe hard feelings over Washington's flip-flop on a U.N. vote.

The magazine did not set a date for the visit, but said it followed "the disquiet of Jews in America and Arabs in the Mideast" over the U.N. vote.

Washington earlier this month voted for the dismantling of Jewish settlements in territory occupied by Israel, only to have President Jimmy Carter disown the vote two days later.

Mondale and Robert Strauss, Carter's campaign manager, met with Jewish leaders in the United States to stress that U.S. policy supporting Israel had not changed.

His trip to Israel presumably would be to convey the same message. Egypt has said it is holding the United States to its formal vote, regardless of later explanations.

In another development Cairo's influential *October* magazine Saturday published an analysis of current events that portrayed President Jimmy Carter as weak, indecisive, vacillating and unable to rally Western support or confront the Soviet Union.

"America has never been insulted in any age as it has been insulted these days," wrote *October* editor Anis Mansour, who is close to President Anwar Sadat.

"The reason is: the weakness of American decisions, or the inability of America to take a decision," Mansour added.

Mansour portrayed the United States as now adopting a step-by-step approach in international relations, "one step forward and one step backward, or one step in the dark and another in the light."

The harsh portrayal of Carter contrasted with the heretofore fulsome Egyptian official praise for the U.S. president, often lauded as "a full partner" in the Mideast peace process.

Mansour conceded that Carter was still fully backing the Camp David peace accords between Egypt and Israel, and had supplied both countries with weapons to confront external threats.

But what led to the seeming Egyptian displeasure with Carter was his about-face in first supporting, then opposing his own administration's vote in the Security Council earlier this month.

The United States approved a Security Council resolution demanding Israeli settlements in occupied territories be dismantled. It also referred to Jerusalem as occupied territory. But two days later Carter said it had all been a mistake due to a "communications gap."

Khaled's message carried to Iraq

BAGHDAD, March 15 (R) — Saudi Arabian envoy arrived here Saturday with a message from King Khaled to President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

It quoted Saudi Foreign Under-secretary Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Thanyan as saying the message dealt with bilateral ties and questions of interest to both Arabs and Muslims. INA gave no other details.

Shipping supplement

With this issue *Arab News* includes an eight-page shipping supplement to highlight the growth of shipping throughout the Kingdom.

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Bahrain justice minister completes Riyadh talks

RIYADH, March 15 (SPA) — Bahrain's minister of justice and Islamic affairs, Sheikh Abdullah bin Khaled Al Khalifa, left for Bahrain Saturday after attending the second conference of ministers of endowments and Islamic affairs which ended here Tuesday.

While in Riyadh, Al Khalifa held official talks with Saudi Arabian officials. Minister of Pilgrimage and Endowments Sheikh Abdul Wahab Abdul Wasie said during his farewell to Al Khalifa that their talks involved coordination between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in Islamic affairs and other issues related to Dawa, or call to Islam. They also discussed pilgrims and pilgrimage affairs in Bahrain.

Al Khalifa met Minister of Justice Sheikh Ibrahim bin Muhammad Al Sheikh to Bahrain rights of ownership in the Kingdom and the same rights of Saudi Arabian nationals in Bahrain. Al Khalifa said courts and justice officials in the Kingdom have been advised to treat Bahraini nationals equally with Saudi Arabians in ownership and real estate investments.

OIC experts discuss links for members

By Rana Sadiqqi

JEDDAH, March 15 — Telecommunications and postal service experts opened meetings at the Organization of Islamic Conference here Saturday.

Secretary General Zafarul Islam said in the meeting's opening speech that Islamic countries lack an efficient telecommunications system. He said early steps for cooperation in this field were needed in order to create a sophisticated communication networks similar to those in industrialized countries.

Not enough information and data are available on existing Islamic communications systems to start integration of existing networks in member countries, the experts have agreed. Therefore, they have recommended this information be gathered on a regional basis.

Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Malaysia and Mali will act as coordinators of this information search for the Middle East North Africa, Asia and West Africa respectively.

The experts agreed that OIC states should utilize all available technical facilities in Islamic countries for the training of personnel and exchange of expertise.

The first step toward greater integration of communication would consist of bilateral and regional networks. During the next two days, the group expects to study cooperation of postal services. The reports of the experts will be finalized at the final session March 18.

The group is chaired by Fouad Ashram of Saudi Arabia. The delegates of Qatar and Tunisia were elected as vice-chairmen. The delegate of Bangladesh was rapporteur for the meetings.

This meeting is one in a series of expert level talks organized by the OIC. Shipping and civil aviation experts met here last week and have submitted their findings and proposals.

The recommendations of the various groups are to be presented at the 11th conference of foreign ministers scheduled in Islamabad, Pakistan next month.

Al Sheikh briefed Al Khalifa on the Kingdom's courts and cases. The statistics reviewed indicated a drop in the crime rate — attributed to full adherence to Sharia in all aspects of living.

Later, Al Khalifa was received by Prince Salman, governor of Riyadh. The two men discussed fraternal relations between the two countries. This meeting was also attended by Sheikh Abdul Wahab.

Al-Khalifa expressed pleasure with the visit and said that the conference of ministers of endowments and Islamic affairs ended with issuance of decisions for the benefit of Islam and Muslims.

His official visit of the Kingdom after the conference, enabled him to witness the progress and development in various parts of the country, he said.

Killer, rapist beheaded in Taif, Riyadh

TAIF, March 15 (SPA) — Muhammad bin Ahmed bin Radhan was beheaded here Friday for killing Hamed Omar bin Habib, an Interior Ministry statement said Friday.

According to the statement, the convicted criminal was trying to assault Hamed for immoral satisfaction. When he failed, he twisted a towel around the man's neck and throttled him.

After Hamed fell, Muhammad tore off the former's clothes but could not satisfy his lust as fear had gripped him by then. He left the victim and went away. But when he came back to the spot the next morning, he found Hamed lying dead on the same place.

In Riyadh, Mosaed bin Muslah Al-Otaibi, a convicted rapist, was beheaded Friday. Mosaed, a taxi driver, raped a woman in his automobile during a journey from Affif to Riyadh.



CLEAN-UP WEEK: In an effort to enhance people's awareness of sanitation, and make the city cleaner, the city municipality began "Clean-Up Week" on Saturday. Dr. Hassan Hajra, Jeddah's deputy mayor, told *Arab News* that the municipality intends on having all its equipment out cleaning the streets during the week. In addition, they will pass out flyers and hang posters informing people of proper sanitary procedures. Hajra said the municipality is also encouraging private companies to help in the cleaning efforts. This means that the companies would have to find suitable areas to dump their trash rather than just place it anywhere, as the case has been.

BRIEFS

RIYADH, March 15 (SPA) — Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal returned here Saturday after heading the Saudi delegation to the Jerusalem Committee conference that concluded its meeting in Marrakesh last Tuesday.

Prince Saud also headed the Saudi delegation in the joint Saudi-Moroccan bilateral talks that convened last Thursday.

RIYADH, March 15 (SPA) — His Majesty King Khaled received in his Royal office in Mazar Palace the Bahraini justice and Islamic affairs minister, Sheikh Abdullah bin Khaled al-Khalifa, Saturday. The meet-

ing was attended by Crown Prince Fahd, Second Deputy Premier and Commander of the National Guard Prince Abdullah and pilgrimage and endowments minister Sheikh Abdul Wahab Abdul Wasie.

DAMMAM, March 15 (SPA) — The acting governor of the Eastern Province, Prince Muhammad bin Fahd Al-Jiluwi, will dedicate Sunday a factory for the production of industrial gases. The factory, located in Dammam's industrial area, has an overall capacity of 60 tons of oxygen, nitrogen and argon.

WEATHER

The weather will be moderate in the Northern part of Saudi Arabia. It will be relatively hot in the rest of the Kingdom. But temperatures are expected to drop in parts of the Central and Western provinces. The Western, Central and Southern provinces as well as the Western slopes will be covered by clouds. Surface winds will blow southerly in the Southern, Central and Eastern areas, becoming active sometimes, raising sand. It will blow northwesterly at moderate speed in other areas.

Sea conditions in territorial waters will be moderate to choppy.

Saturday's temperatures (maximum, minimum in centigrade)

Mecca	35	22
Jeddah	32	22
Riyadh	34	19
Dhahran	32	19
Medina	33	18
Taif	29	12
Jizan	32	25
Hail	24	06
Turaif	15	04
Qaisumah	35	15
Sulayyil	34	21
Abha	25	09



Tihama sales courses begin training Saturday

JEDDAH, March 15 — Tihama, a major Saudi advertising, market research and marketing firm, will begin its first training course for sales representatives next Saturday.

The courses at Tihama's training center are organized in cooperation with King Abdul Aziz University's Research and Development Center. There will be two courses daily over a period of three months coupled with practical training and seminars to assimilate and assess the lectures.

A company official said that Sunday will be

the last day for interviewing persons who wish to register for the course, adding that the turn out among Saudi youths was extraordinary. Results of the admission tests will be announced Tuesday.

He also said that a tea party will be held next Saturday for lecturers and students to get acquainted with each other.

He further said that the profession for which the youths are to be trained will serve the overall development purposes of the country. He lauded the high standard of applicants and their enthusiasm.

Saudi Comment

By Muhammad Reda Nasrullah
Al Riyadh

How about a comment on a man who hates to be praised about, despite the fact that he is an outstanding official of the state?

Everytime I tried to record a statement from him for the paper I invariably got one reply. "I cannot speak now".

Dr. Jamil Al-Jashi, the director general of the Royal Commission for Jubail, is the kind of person who demonstrates that there are many elements in the country who can work quietly and sincerely without any attraction to press statements or TV interviews. His strong desire to work for the country stems from a feeling that only countrymen can serve the motherland.

Jashi broke all standards of friendship.

kinship and regional relationship in employing those who wanted to work with him in the project. By virtue of his academic and social standard, Jashi picked up youngsters from all parts of the country and put them to work to transform sands into riches for the homeland.

Crown Prince Fahd's enthusiasm provided further spur to officials for continuous work. He admired their dedication and lost no time in sending messages of thanks and encouragement to Planning Minister Hisham Nazer and to Dr. Jashi, the blooming tulip of our national technological field.

Dr. Jashi is a man of sincere and unblemished character and goes modestly to work 18 hours non-stop. I am afraid I am going to earn his displeasure for these sentiments, but I cannot afford to hide the reality. His wrath will, therefore be my pleasure.

Abastillas wins in Riyadh tennis

RIYADH, March 15 — Rennie Abastillas from Ladoil is a tennis hero and winner of the second annual Riyadh Intercontinental Hotel / Lufthansa tennis tournament. An enthusiastic crowd of 700 spectators brought an ovation to finalists Abastillas and Bosch for a thrilling tennis match in which Abastillas defeated Bosch 3-6, 6-3 and 6-0 winning the challenge trophy, his first prize trophy and a one year membership on the courts.

Abastillas' display in the final was a continuation of his dynamic performance in the semi-final in which he defeated last year's finalist and No. 2 seed McGinnis in two straight sets 6-4, 6-4. Abastillas used his powerful serve and fine volleys to maintain command throughout the match. McGinnis, a master of the baseline play, had no real answer to the creative play of his opponent.

Bosch reached the final by defeating Mabrouk 3-6, 6-2, and 7-5 in a murderous game. At a score of 5-4 in the third set Mabrouk had a place in the final in his hand, but cool and calculating Bosch leveling 5-5 on his own service, forced Mabrouk into errors and winning 7-5. During the first set of the final Abastillas did not come in his usual game. Losing his own service twice, he left the first set for agile Bosch 6-3. In the second set Abastillas counter-attacked with frequent successful passing shots and accurate volleys. Abastillas broke his opponent's service twice and held his own to take the second set 6-3.

Upsets continue in Khobar doubles

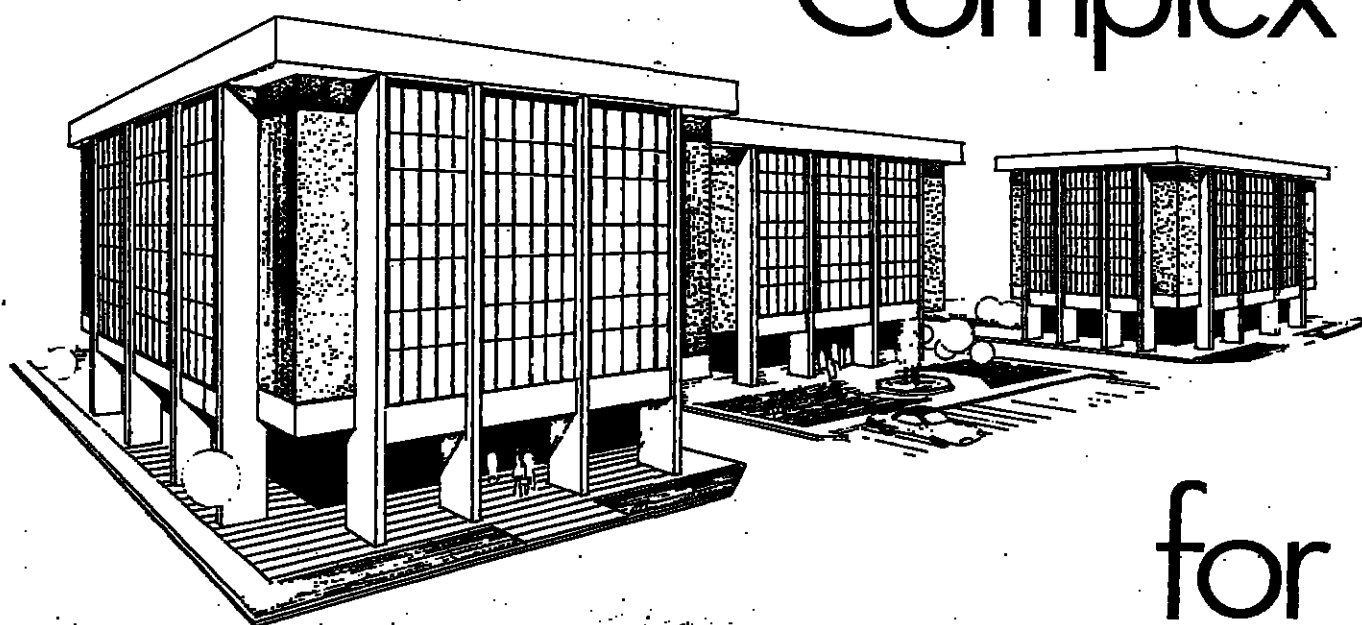
By Geoff Gardner

AL KHOBAR, March 15 — After losing a big lead and the first set, June Brandie and Cynthia Copeland regained their composure to squeeze by top-seeded Wendy Jones and Diana Jackson in a dramatic 6-7, 7-6, 7-5 upset win in the first flight ladies' doubles of the 1980 Khobar Tennis Tournament in A Khobar Friday.

The winners could relax only after Brandie put away an overhead smash to win the last game of the third set. Over 100 spectators watched the top seeds fall from a 5-2 deficit and eventually win the first set tie-break 7-5. The second set was almost as close as the second-seeded Brandie and Copeland took 7-3 tiebreaker. In the final set the teams were again tied at 5-5, but Copeland held serve and the winners went on to break Jackson for the match.

Ward and Lefcourt rebounded from 1-4 in the second set to overcome Crack and Fir 6-3, 6-4 and take the second flight championship. In flight three, Sahadullah, winner of the third flight mixed doubles the previous week, and her partner, Hansen, breezed 6-0, 6-2, 6-2. In the final flight, Hansen and Crawford beat Oldmeadow and Buccel 6-4, 7-5.

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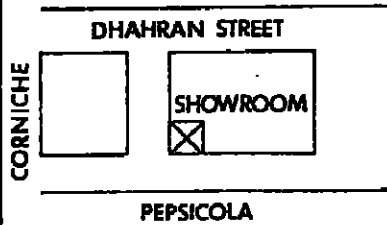
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مكتبة الأصل

Syria sends 10,000-man division to Aleppo

BEIRUT, March 15 (R) — Syria has moved a division of more than 10,000 men to the northern city of Aleppo in a massive show of force to opponents of President Hafez Assad's government, Western diplomatic sources said Friday night.

Convoys of tanks, armored personnel carriers and lorries had rumbled north during the past two days to throw a ring of steel around Aleppo, Syria's second-largest city, the sources said.

Aleppo has been the focus of anti-government demonstrations, violence and strikes over the past few weeks.

The sources said they thought dispatch of the division, including heavy artillery, was meant to intimidate Aleppo dissidents who have made some districts of the city virtually out of bounds to security forces.

According to the sources, the division, sent from areas just north of Damascus, accounted for a large part of Syria's military theatre reserves, leaving forces nearer the frontier with Israel unusually exposed.

The movement of such a large force to the Syrian north, bordering Turkey, underlined the growing alarm of the leadership over continuing unrest in northern and central Syria, the sources said.

The sources said that two armored brigades had been sent north on Thursday and a mechanized infantry brigade followed Friday in a move apparently carried out deliberately during daylight hours, using the main road north, to show that the government was determined to deal decisively with its opponents.

There was no confirmation Friday night of a right-wing Lebanese radio report that 80 tanks had taken up positions around strategic squares and junctions in Aleppo Friday.

Travelers who returned from the city Thursday described it as calm, with no sign of unusual tension, but said that the majority of shops in the main districts were closed.

The government complemented its show of military muscle Friday with a political gesture aimed at placating opposition in Aleppo — the appointment of a new governor. He is Muhammad Nihad al-Qadi, a 46-year-old judge, who replaces Hussein Bartaah.

Meanwhile, Arab diplomatic sources said Friday that two bombs exploded in a busy square in Damascus Wednesday.

The bombs went off within seconds of each other near an office of the ruling Baath Party.

It was not known whether there were casualties and damage was reported to be slight.

A few hours earlier, security forces had killed a member of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood in a gun battle in northern Damascus.

3 state ministers named in Sudan

KHARTOUM, March 15 (R) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri has appointed three new ministers of state, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported.

The Agency said the new ministers were Muhammad Osman Abuksag (culture and information), Abdul-Rahman Abdul-Wahab (finance) and Mirghani Muhammad Ahmad (planning).

Sadat sees 'new situation' if autonomy talks collapse

TEL AVIV, March 15 (AP) — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has said he was disappointed with Israel's negotiating on Palestinian autonomy, and that failure to reach an agreement would create "a new situation."

In an interview with the Haaretz newspaper Friday Sadat was quoted as saying that, although Israel had faithfully withdrawn from Egyptian territory, "I miss the core of the matter, the core which for me is the spirit ... which you (the Israelis) do not even now fulfill."

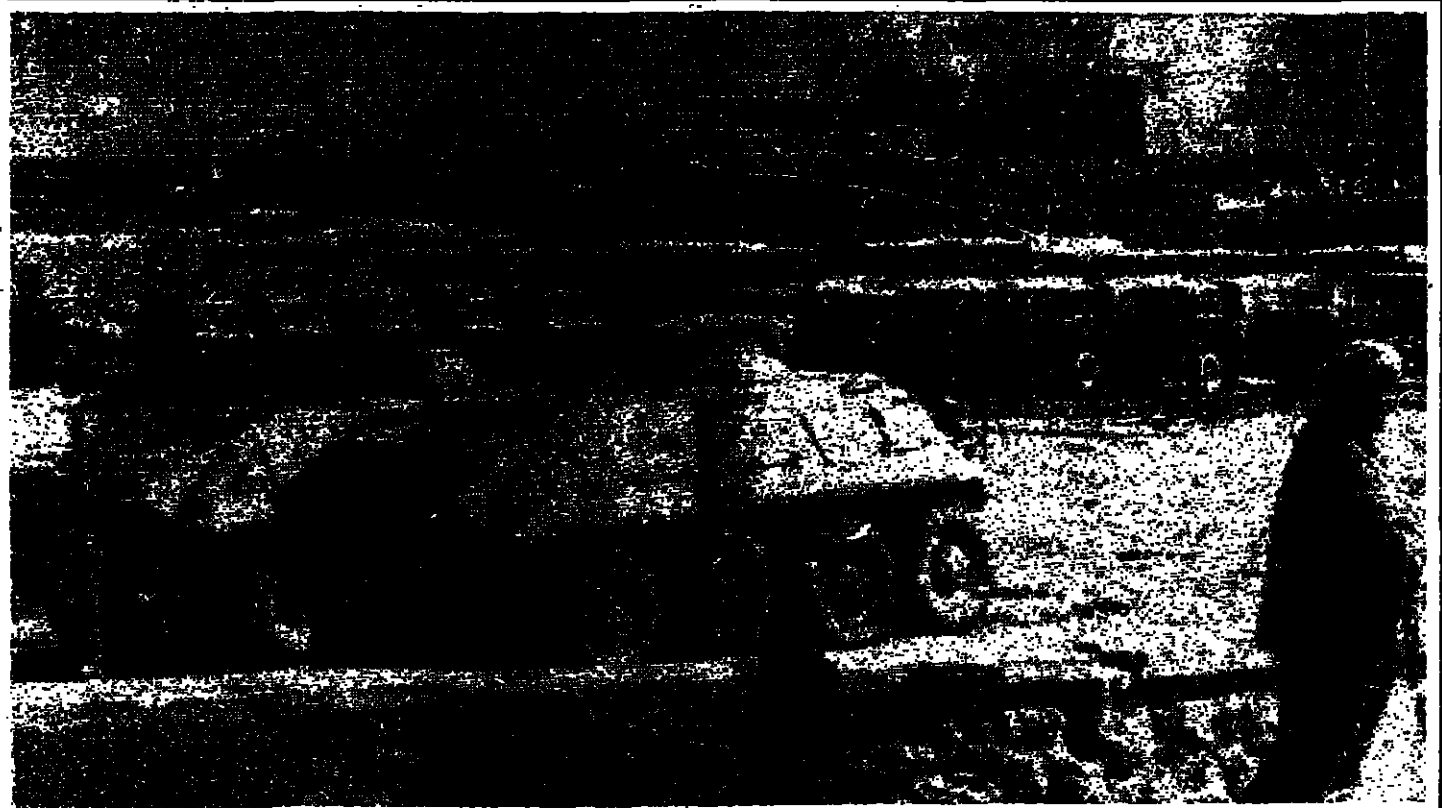
"If there is no progress in the autonomy talks by the 26 of May (deadline for the talks), a new situation will be created," Sadat said. The interview was conducted in Cairo in English.

Sadat did not say what the new situation would be, but emphasized that it would not mean curtailing ties established under the Israel-Egypt peace treaty.

"Don't ask me for details," Sadat said. "I never cross a bridge before I come to it."

Sadat said failure of the autonomy talks would block an overall Mideast settlement. "We have stopped halfway, and it is Israel's fault," he said. "The autonomy talks have not been a total failure ... but they have also made no progress. No progress."

In a separate development, Franz Josef Strauss, head of West Germany's opposition Christian Democrats has urged strong inter-



GUARDING ROAD: Two Afghans stroll past a camp packed with Soviet military vehicles, in the town of Pul-i-Khumri, some one hundred miles north of Kabul earlier this month. The town lies on the main route between Kabul and the Soviet border, which carries most of the supplies for Soviet forces in Afghanistan, and which has frequently been attacked by Afghan rebels.

Stern magazine says

Israeli agents sabotaged French nuclear plant

BONN, March 15 (AP) — Israeli agents sabotaged a French nuclear reactor plant last April because it was building a reactor for Iraq which could have given the Arab state nuclear weapons capability, a West German Magazine says.

The magazine Stern made the claim in the first of what it says will be a series of articles on the activities of Israel's intelligence service, Mossad.

There was no immediate comment from Israeli authorities.

According to Stern, the seven Mossad agents decided to set off a bomb at the facility at La Seyne-sur-Mer near Toulon after abandoning plans to steal key parts of the reactor in a daring raid.

"Iraq would have built an atomic bomb," the magazine said, "six times as strong as the Hiroshima bomb. A nightmare for Israel."

Stern said the agents arrived in Toulon on April 4 carrying forged French passports. The following day, three members of the group slipped onto the plant site and identified the areas where the Iraqi reactor was under construction.

Early on the morning of April 6, Stern said, the Israelis departed Toulon in two large trucks headed for the site. The agents had determined that the night watchman did not make his rounds between midnight and 3 a.m., making that the best time for the raid.

"Four men held their position in the trucks and observed the area (around the site)," Stern said. "Three leaped out, shoved the concrete barriers to the wall and climbed over with the grace of cats. They ran to the blue-white-and-red hangers and opened the roll doors with a key which the 'inside man' had provided. One of them put the alarm out of operation."

The Israelis, using information provided by an employee, knew which of the reactors were destined for Iraq, Stern said. They had hoped to smuggle the equipment out of the facility but gave up.

The agents then brought in a small bomb, mounted it to the reactor and set off the charge shortly before 3 a.m.

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"Sixty per cent of the reactor area was destroyed," Stern said. "The damage, as later reported, amounted to \$ 20 million."

Stern said the Israelis telephoned Toulon police on April 7 and claimed to be members of "the group of French nature protectors."

The would-be environmentalists claimed responsibility for the attack and warned of others against nuclear facilities.

"The investigations produced no results," Stern said. "The French do not know with certainty until today whether the Israeli secret service Mossad stands behind its act of sabotage."

Algeria's Chadli to visit Jordan

AMMAN, March 15 (R) — Algerian President Benjedid Chadli will pay a state visit to Jordan next week, officials said Saturday.

They did not disclose the date but said he would hold talks with King Hussein on the situation in the Arab world and bilateral relations.

China military team visits Pakistan

RAWALPINDI, March 15 (R) — A Chinese military delegation headed by Vice-Minister of Defense Xiao Ke arrived here Friday on a six-day visit to Pakistan.

They were due to hold the first round of talks with Pakistani officers, Saturday. The delegation is also due to meet President Zia ul-Haq and visit Peshawar, Lahore and Karachi.

It is the second high-level Chinese visit to Pakistan since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in December. Foreign Minister Huang Hua visited Pakistan in January.

Morocco threatens to quit OAU

LONDON, March 15 (R) — Former Moroccan prime minister Ahmad Osman has said Morocco would withdraw from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) if African states voted to support the Polisario Front.

The Algerian backed front has been fighting a four-year war against Morocco for independence of the Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony, now administered by Rabat.

Osman, on a four-day visit to London as head of a parliamentary delegation, told a news conference Friday "We would leave the OAU if two thirds of the member countries voted in support of the Polisario Front."

He said he hoped that Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan would change the attitude of African states toward the Western Sahara.

\$100m credit proposed to Turkey

WASHINGTON, March 15 (R) — The United States has proposed increasing its economic aid to Turkey with a \$ 100 million credit, U.S. officials said Saturday.

They said the credit backed by Eximbank, a federal agency that helps promote U.S. exports, would supplement planned aid of \$ 200 million.

Israel's inflation up by 4.9 per cent

TEL AVIV, March 15 (R) — Israel's cost of living index rose by 4.9 per cent last month, the smallest increase since last June, the finance ministry has announced.

A ministry spokesman said Friday it was evidence that Israel's inflation, which has been running at an annual rate of about 150 per cent, was being brought under control.

He admitted, however, that the government had made a special effort to keep the index in check by postponing steep price rises on fuel and electricity.

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Warsaw crash worst in 10 years for U.S.

LONDON, March 15 (Agencies) — All 14 members of a U.S. amateur boxing team died Friday in the worst disaster to hit U.S. sport for the past 10 years.

The boxers and six officials with them were among the 87 passengers and crew killed when a Soviet-built LOT Polish Airlines plane crashed into a fort near the Polish capital of Warsaw.

The jetliner crashed into a 100-year-old fort during an approach to Warsaw's international airport.

Witnesses said they heard an explosion moments before the Ilyushin 62 jetliner on a flight from New York and Montreal, slammed into the earthen walls of the fort, located in a densely-populated area south of the city.

It was the worst aviation disaster in Poland since World War II. Premier Edward Babuch, who visited the crash site, declared Saturday and Sunday as days of mourning for the victims.

A special commission under deputy Premier Tadeusz Wrzasnyski was organized to investigate the crash.

Witnesses said the aircraft's all section and other parts of the plane were strewn along the ice of what had been the moat at the Czarist-era fort, now used as a rifle range and storage depot for the Polish army.

"It's a terrible mess," a policeman at the site said. "Nobody survived."

In 1970 two separate air crashes in the United States within six weeks killed a total of 39 college soccer players.

An unspecified number of players from the Soviet Union's Tashkent Pakhtakor football team also died last summer when two Soviet aircraft collided in midair.

Unconfirmed reports said later the Pakhtakor team avoided being wiped out entirely only because some of its players had traveled on an earlier flight.

An air crash in 1958 near West Germany's Munich airport killed eight members of Britain's Manchester United soccer team. At least one British club vowed afterwards always to travel on a number of flights for long-distance matches.

An entire Italian team perished in 1949 when the aircraft bringing players back from an engagement in Lisbon crashed into a cathedral spire near Italy's Turin airport.

Another prominent disaster in U.S. sporting memory was a crash which killed all 17 members of the U.S. world championship ice skating team in 1961. Their Boeing 707 jet hit a power cable near Belgium's Airport and exploded, killing all 73 passengers on board.

Fifteen members of the Algerian soccer team Adal also died in January 1971 when the charter plane in which they were traveling disappeared over the Mediterranean between Algeria and Spain.

One of the most recent air disasters involving a sports team occurred Dec. 14, 1977 when 14 members of the University of Evansville, Illinois, basketball team and their coach, Bob Watson, were killed in the crash of a chartered plane.



WRECKAGE: The splintered tail section of a LOT jetliner rests on the grounds of a fort outside Warsaw where it crashed Friday, killing 97 persons including all members of a U.S. boxing team.

Presidential primary Tuesday Illinois delegations at stake

WASHINGTON, March 15 (AP) — The state of Illinois in America's industrial and farm heartland holds party elections next Tuesday to select the third largest state delegations to the Democratic and Republican national conventions that will name the two parties' 1980 presidential candidates.

The elections will be the first this year in a major midwestern industrial state — and they could decide the political fate of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, a Democrat, and former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director George Bush, a Republican.

The fight is for shares of 179 Democratic delegates and 102 Republican delegates.

The Republican primary, or party election, appears to have become a two-man race between former California Governor Ronald Reagan and John B. Anderson, a member of the House of Representatives whose near-victories in the Vermont and Massachusetts Republican primaries two weeks ago made him a serious challenger.

Bush may be nearing the end of his campaign. He expects to run third in Illinois, although he was once the leading candidate in opinion polls here.

The *Chicago Tribune* poll recently showed Anderson as the choice of 32 per cent of the Illinois Republicans followed by Reagan with 30 per cent and Bush with 19 per cent.

Illinois has been the state where Bush hoped to derail Reagan.

After looking at the polls, Reagan's midwestern chairman Don Pottin said flatly: "I think Bush is dead."

Since Illinois is his home state, Anderson's performance in Tuesday's primary is vital to his campaign.

George Kangas, co-chairman of the Bush campaign in Illinois, said Anderson is drawing attention from "a lot of independent Democrats who are not happy with Carter and Kennedy." Co-chairman Sam Skinner said of Anderson: "He is the underdog. He is different and he has rallied a number of people to him. I think they are enamored of his guts, his fortitude and his integrity. He is from Illinois and they are going to rally around him."

In a debate among Republican candidates on Thursday, Representative Phillip Crane accused Anderson of disloyalty to the party, and suggested that Anderson really belonged in the Democratic party.

Unlike his Republican rivals, Anderson believes in an active role for the federal government in attacking economic and social

problems. Reagan says the nation needs to be freed from big government.

Reagan could face some financial trouble if Anderson wins Tuesday and denies Reagan an early victory in the race for the nomination. Reagan's new campaign chairman, William Casey, was quoted in a newspaper interview as saying the Reagan campaign had spent "more than \$12 million" by the end of February. Under federal law, candidates can spend a total of \$17.7 million before the July party convention. And beyond Illinois, there may be expensive races to fight in New York, California and other big states.

Illinois is pivotal to the continuation of Kennedy's challenge to Carter for the Democratic presidential nomination. Carter now has 283 delegates to the national convention with 1,666 needed for nomination. Kennedy has 145 delegates.

Carter has stayed in Washington, refusing to campaign actively due to the crises with Iran and Afghanistan.

A poll of 603 Illinois Democrats taken for the *Chicago Tribune* March 7-9 said Carter would win 62 per cent of the vote to 23 per cent for Kennedy and 2 per cent for Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. of California. The poll found only small gains for Kennedy compared with another *Tribune* poll two weeks earlier. It represented, a dramatic slide for the Senator compared with a year ago, when a poll for the Gannett News Service found him preferred 49 per cent to 28 per cent among registered Illinois Democrats.

The first critical evaluation of Carter's efforts to fight inflation — including his program announced Friday — will come in primaries in the big industrial states such as Illinois.

Carter administration officials concede that inflation — now running 18 per cent a year — is a political thorn in the side that already has begun to tarnish the president's image. Kennedy is telling Illinois voters that "inflation is just ripping apart our society" and that Carter's economic policies are "intolerable."

Kennedy has been concentrating almost entirely on economic issues and appealing to the traditional constituents of the Democratic party — the poor, minority groups and blacks.

He claims, however, that Americans are preoccupied with Iran and are not focusing on the fundamental issue of the presidential campaign — the American economy.

Okita to visit Washington

TOKYO, March 15 (AP) — Japanese Foreign Minister Saburo Okita is to visit Washington next week amid growing feelings of U.S. protectionism and pressure on Japan to increase defense spending following Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Japanese officials insist there is "no particular significance" to the trip — Okita's first to the United States since taking office last November — other than to prepare for a visit by Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira in April or May.

They said Okita, one of the few Japanese politicians fluent in English, will concentrate on economic issues.

However, talks are also expected to cover the massive Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, the Iran crisis, and U.S. demands that Japan step up defense efforts.

No timetable or agenda has been announced for Okita's planned talks with Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, Defense Secretary Harold Brown, and National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski. Okita, 65, is also expected to meet President Jimmy Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale.

Government sources said discussion was likely to turn to surging Japanese car sales to the United States. But they said that Okita is not carrying any messages to appease United Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser, who during a visit here last month sharply criticized Japan's aggressive export policies. Fraser warned Japanese automakers of a

growing protectionist feeling in the United States.

Okita is expected to reiterate the official government view that it cannot force major Japanese automakers — notably Toyota and Nissan — to begin to manufacture cars in the United States.

Defense Secretary Brown also visited Japan this year, urging the government to increase military spending by "some tenth of a per cent" Japan now spends 0.9 per cent of its gross national product on defense, and efforts to increase this amount have been met with fierce political opposition.

Some Americans, noting the 48,000 U.S. servicemen stationed in Japan, have suggested that Tokyo is getting a "free ride" on defense at Washington's expense.

Japanese officials have countered that argument by saying that they contribute heavily to foreign aid, intended to stabilize neighboring Asian nations and thereby lessen the need for military outlays.

In the fiscal year beginning April 1, Japan is expected to spend nearly \$3 billion for foreign aid, 70 per cent in Asia.

After the Soviet Union sent an estimated 70,000 troops to Afghanistan late last December, Japan pledged \$135 million to Pakistan. Government sources said Friday that President Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq of Pakistan appreciated Japan's "prompt and generous response" but that he had asked for considerably more aid to counter the Soviet threat.

Nurse took bets on patients' deaths, police say

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, March 15 (R) — A nurse is being questioned about allegations that she took bets on when patients would die — and that she may have hastened some of their deaths, hospital sources have said.

The allegations Friday shook this gambling capital, where fortunes are won and lost on roulette and where people will bet on any-

thing. Several members of the staff of the private Sunrise Hospital in Las Vegas have been suspended following the allegations, the hospital administrator, David Brandness, said.

Hospital authorities, police and members of the staff or the local prosecutor are carrying out a joint investigation.

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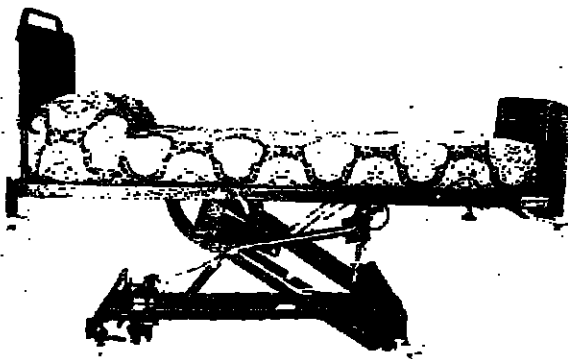
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مكتبة الجاهلي

Hungarian duo wins ice dance title in Germany

DORTMUND, West Germany, March 15 (R) — Krisztina Regoczy and Andras Sallay of Hungary won the ice dance title at the world figure skating championships here Friday.

The popular pair beat European and Olympic champion Naal Linichuk and Genadi Karponosov of the Soviet Union into second place. Another Soviet pair, Irina Moiseyeva and Andrei Minenkov, were third with Britons Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean fourth.

The Hungarians finished second in Vienna a year ago and also had to settle for the silver medal in the European Championships and Olympic Games.

Linichuk and Karponosov led through the first three compulsories. But Regoczy and Sallay moved into contention when Karponosov fell in the fourth and final sequence Thursday.

The mistake proved crucial although the holders took a slender margin into the free skating final, they could not match the fiery Gypsy-style performance of the Hungarians. Moiseyeva and Minenkov also won the bronze medal at European and Olympic level.

Australia gets draw

MULTAN, Pakistan, March 15 (AP) — The second three-day zonal match between the Australian cricket team and the Governors Eleven ended in draw Saturday.

Batting Alan Border not out 13 and Ray Bright 10, not out.

Earlier at tea, the Governors Eleven had scored 323 all out at their first innings in reply to Australians first innings 213 all out.

Azhar Khan 100, Shafiq Ahmed 66 and Sultan Rana 52 were scorers from the Governors Eleven.

G. Lawson took 4 and G. Dymock and R. Bright took 3 wickets each.

Forrell and Dean atoned for two slips in their fourth compulsory with an excellent performance.

Lorana Wighton and John Dowding of Canada were fifth and spectacular Americans Judy Blumberg and Michael Seibert sixth.

Arch-rivals Anett Poetzsch of East Germany and American Lina Fratianne made errors in their short program in the women's event at the world figure skating championships. But Poetzsch still manage to retain her lead.

The 19-year-old Olympic champion, out in front after Thursday's compulsory figures, was caught slightly by Dagmar Lutz of West Germany, but she can thank her lucky stars that Fratianne was unable to take advantage and move closer.

The American jumped only one place to third while Emi Watanabe of Japan skated marvelously to move up to fourth. Claudia Christof-Binder of Austria dropped from third to fifth.

Fratianne, the reigning champion, lost points with her combination jump. The required maneuver calls for two jumps together, one of which must be a double loop, and Fratianne had planned a triple salchow combination with it.

But at the last minute it became a double salchow and the American was duly penalized.

The 19-year-old Californian skating with a painful ankle injury, said, "It hurt a bit in the warm up, but I was too cautious in the jump and didn't have enough confidence."

Fratianne almost quit after finishing second to Poetzsch at last month's Olympics but was persuaded to carry on by President Jimmy Carter. She admits, however, that she is not as fired up as she should be for this competition, which will be her last.

Poetzsch, followed the American onto the ice and also had problems with the combination, early falling over after the second jump.



PERFECT: World champion Kurt Thomas goes through his horizontal bar routine at Madison Square Garden last week. Thomas scored a perfect 10 on the Horizontal bars to win the American Cup gymnastics championships.

Taiwan disclaims Ali-Tate refusal

Watt successfully defends lightweight title

GLASGOW, Scotland March 15 (AP) — Scotland's Jim Watt successfully defended his WBC world lightweight boxing title Friday, tumbling challenger Charles Nash of Northern Ireland four times in the fourth round until referee Syd Nathan stopped the fight to spare the challenger further punishment.

Watt weighed in at 134 pounds, 13 ounces (60.55 kgs), Nash two ounces less.

Nash began like a champion, outjabbing Watt until he floored Watt with a solid right-left combination. The champ rose without a count and promptly opened a cut over Nash's left eye.

The Irishman continued to bother the Scot through the second frame. But with the third, Watt was visibly getting on top.

In the fourth round, the two men went down together with the champion on top of Nash. The referee gave Nash a count of five.

The challenger was visibly shaky when he got up. A left put him down for eight. His resistance was gone when he rose and Watt promptly floored him again for eight with a left cross and Nathan stepped in to halt the slaughter.

It was Watt's third successful title defense in 11 months. He is to defend it again against Howard Davis of New York.

Meanwhile, in Taipei an official of the Education Ministry said Saturday that it has not turned down or approved any request for a world title bout between Muhammad Ali and World Boxing Association heavyweight champion John Tate in Taiwan in June.

Tsai Min-Chung, director of the ministry's Department of Physical Education, which is one of the nation's top sports governing agencies, said that there has been no official request for Taiwan to stage the Ali-Tate title fight in the first place.

He stressed that even if there is a request

Atlanta clinches NBA Central Division title

NEW YORK, March 15 (AP) — For years, Atlanta was known as a loser. No more. The Atlanta Hawks rode Armond Hill's clutch scoring in the closing minute to an 88-87 victory over Boston that gave them the National Basketball Association's Central Division crown, their first title since 1970.

Hill hit four successive field goals, the last a 16-foot jump shot with three seconds to play. The lead switched hands four times in the last 26 seconds. Hill hit on two long jump shots, then sank a five-footer with 20 seconds left to give the Hawks an 86-85 lead.

Jamaal Wilkes scored 27 points and Los Angeles, which led from the opening minute, beat the Nuggets with ease 132-126. The Lakers led by 17 points midway through the second period. Los Angeles remains two games ahead of Seattle with eight games left for each team in the Pacific Division race.

Seattle ran away from the Bulls in the third period, building a 75-50 lead and breezing to its 51st victory in 84 games 122-101. Dennis Johnson scored 25 points and reserve guard Freddie Brown added 18. David Greenwood had 20 points as Chicago's top scorer.

George Gervin's 12 points in the fourth period (he finished with 29) helped San Antonio shake off the Pistons, 113-102, who had rallied from a 27-point third-period deficit to tie the game in the final quarter. The spurs scored 11 straight points in one span to lock up the victory.

Elvin Hayes scored six of his 21 points in a second-period burst that gave Washington a 14-point lead as the Bullets beat Houston 92-85. Calvin Murphy scored 22 for the Rockets. Bucks 120, Blazers 110.

Bob Lanier scored five points in a row to short-circuit Portland's comeback and give Milwaukee its, 120-110 margin of victory. Lanier went to work after the Bucks' 20-point lead had faded to five.

Indiana offser Julius Erving's 33-point showing by putting together a balanced attack to turn back the 76ers, 104-94. Mike Baron had 20 points and Johnny Davis 19 as the pacers won their third in a row.

from Ali or Tate for Taiwan to hold the bout. "There will be great difficulty for us to hold such a bout, which attracts worldwide attention. We don't want it to become a failure."

Greg Campbell, Ali's agent, left for home Friday after a five-day stay during which he met with sports officials, including Lin Chung-Fu, secretary general of Taiwan's Amateur Boxing Association. Campbell was here to discuss the possibility of Taiwan serv-

ing as the location of the \$14 million fight.

Campbell was not available for comment prior to his departure, but local promoters said there nothing conclusive resulted from his talks.

Local reports said a couple of days ago that the ministry turned down the Ali-Tate fight, which some papers criticized as too expensive and as a demonstration of violence and sav-

Nigeria faces Egypt in final of group one

LAGOS, March 15 (R) — Nigeria's fate in the African Nations Soccer Cup will be decided when they meet Egypt in their final group one preliminary game.

Defeat for the home side will mean elimination from the championship should Ivory Coast beat Tanzania.

Nigeria have three points from their previous two games after beating Tanzania 3-1 last Saturday but being held to a goalless draw by Ivory Coast on Wednesday.

Egypt, winners in 1957 and 1959, have won both their matches, beating Ivory Coast and Tanzania 2-1.

They were fortunate to defeat Ivory Coast and it is hard to imagine the Ivorians slipping up against Tanzania, who have yet to win a point.

Group two in Ibadan, north of here, is more competitive. All four nations, defending champions Ghana, all-African games champions Algeria, Guinea and Morocco are in with a chance of reaching the semi-finals. Morocco who play Ghana had key defender Houcine Bouchkachek sent off in the 1-0 defeat by Algeria and this may upset their morale.

Ghana have been playing and with Algeria, have the best chance of going through from group two.

A committee of the African Football Confederation will meet to deal with Houcine Bouchkachek, sent off after punching Algerian left-winger Assad. Meanwhile, automatically, he will serve a one-match suspension, according to regulations.

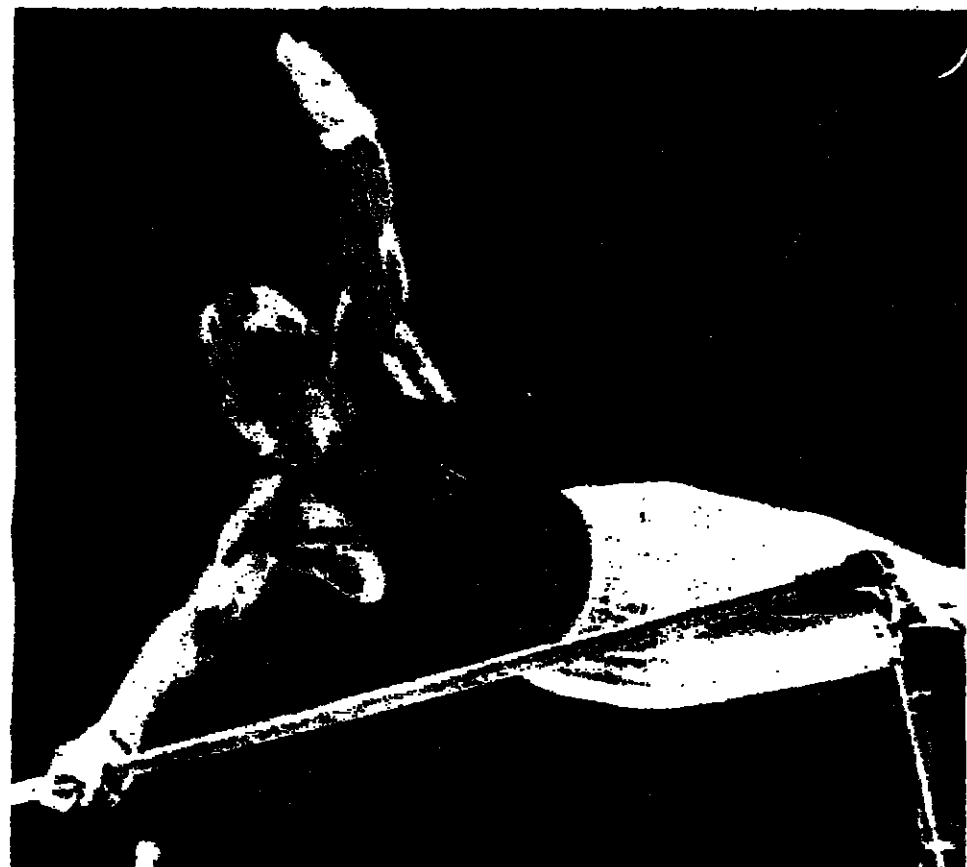
Meanwhile, East German football is becoming disturbingly violent and a First Division record of two broken legs and 52 warnings within two weeks shows most players have never heard of the term fair play, a newspaper complained Friday.

The daily *Der Morgen* said a well-known English catch-phrase that soccer is a game for gentlemen played by hooligans accurately summed up the present state of East German football.

Though the English term "fair play" had become part of the German language, most First Division clubs obviously had no idea what it meant, the daily said.

It hit out in particular at the renowned Magdeburg side, saying they had literally kicked fairness out of the game at a meeting with Dynamo Berlin last Saturday.

Magdeburg had in the past enjoyed the reputation of playing "English football" because of their good attacking style, but their performance against Dynamo had had nothing English about it.



COMEBACK TRAINING: Muhammad Ali skips through his training program in Miami Beach, Florida, wearing a plastic sweat-coat to help with weight loss for his upcoming bout with John Tate. Ali also sports a one-inch cut in his upper lip that took 10 stitches to close.

Amritraj ousted

Mayer tops Delaney in Rotterdam

ROTTERDAM, March 15 (AP) — Top-seed Gene Mayer Friday defeated Chris Delaney 6-4, 6-4 in the quarter finals of the World Championship Tennis Tournament here.

In Saturday's semi-finals, the 23-year-old Mayer, from New York, will meet Fred McManis of Australia, who defeated India's Vijay Amritraj, 6-3, 6-4.

Czechoslovakia's Ivan Lendl defeated Ilie Nastase of Romania 7-5, 6-1 and will face Heinz Gunthart of Switzerland, who had a hard-fought 7-6, 5-7, 6-2 victory over second-seed John Sadri of the U.S.

It took Mayer one hour and 20 minutes to oust the American Delaney, 22, from the \$175,000 tournament.

In the first set Mayer broke through his opponent's service in the seventh game and took a 5-3 lead. Although he had two set-points, Mayer had to concede the ninth game to Delaney. However, the New Yorker held on to his service to win the set.

In the second set, Mayer took a 5-2 lead, but lost a matchpoint in the eighth game and Delaney managed to narrow the gap to 5-4. But he couldn't stop Mayer, who is rated the no. eight player of the world, from winning.

Sadri, who made more errors than in previous matches, was defeated by Gunthart in one hour, 40 minutes.

After trailing 4-1, the American fought

back to catch up with the Swiss at 5-5 and both players held on to their next service. Gunthart decided the tiebreak in his favor by 7-4.

In the following set, neither gave an inch until the 13th game, when Gunthart lost his service.

Sadri immediately dropped his service at the start of the third set, but took that of Gunthart in the fourth game. After that, he was pushed into the defense by the Swiss who took the set 6-2.

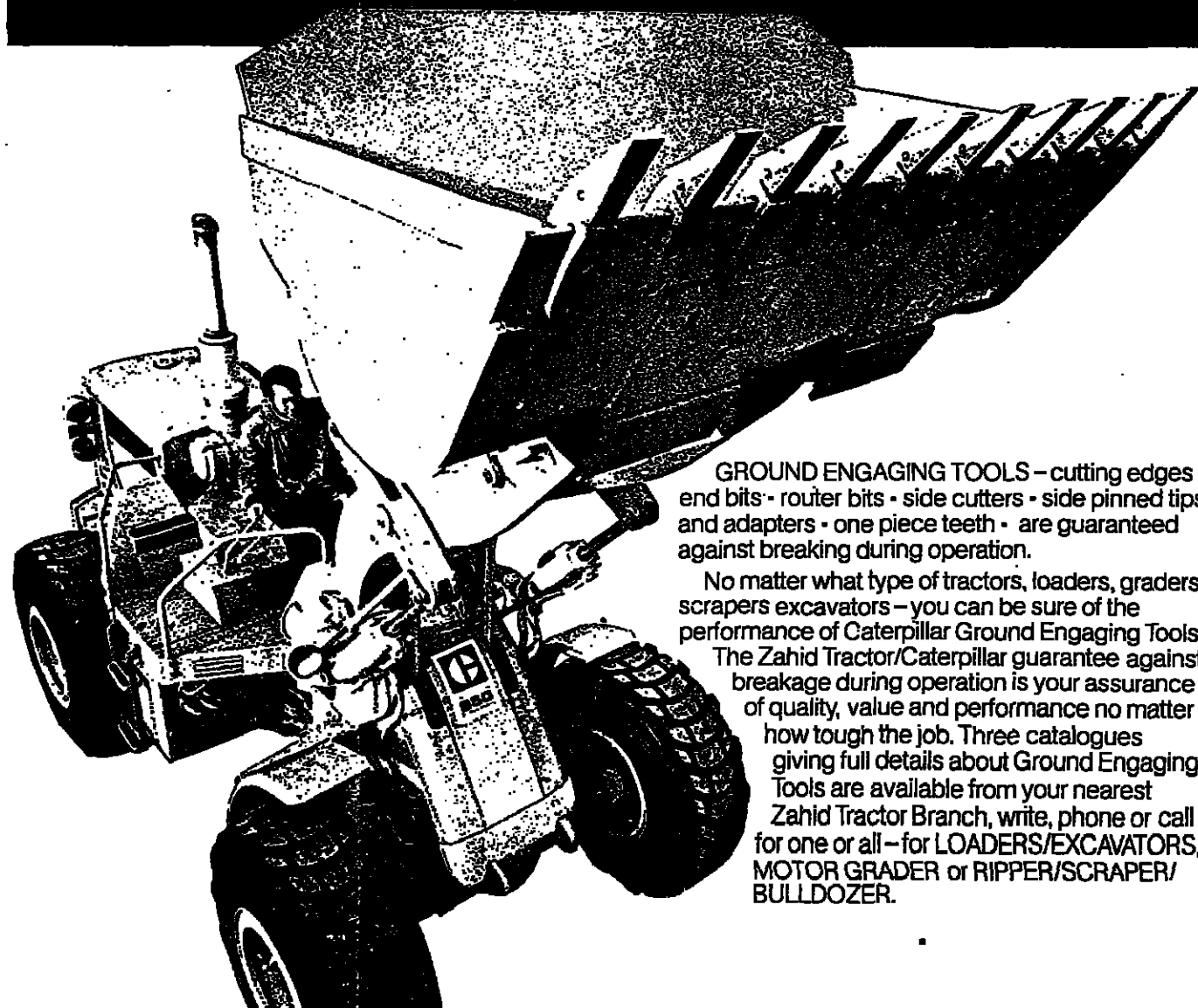
Nastase got three official warnings in the first set of his match against Lendl, which the Czech took 7-5. He was given a points penalty at the start of the second set for abusing the umpire, after which referee Eric Savalle personally intervened and replaced umpire Rob Peperkamp. Savalle said he was ruining the match by his decisions.

The Romanian, nevertheless, lost the second set 6-1.

In Fort Myers Florida Eighteen-year-old Felicia Raschiatore has advanced to the semi-finals of a \$25,000 tennis tournament with her 7-5, 6-1 victory Friday over seventh-seeded Rayni Fox.

It was the sixth consecutive match win for the Florida pro and the second triumph over a seeded player in the main draw. Raschiatore eliminated no. 2 seed Leslie Allen in the first round.

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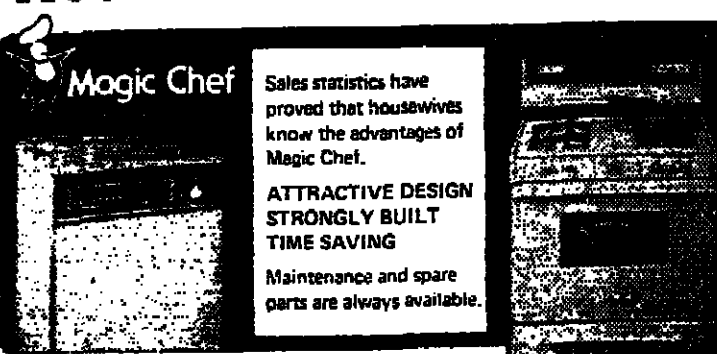
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ARAB NEWS - JEDDAH

African powder keg: Somalia's Siad Barre speaks out

By Conor Cruise O'Brien

My meeting with Jaalle Muhammad Siad Barre, president of the Somali Democratic Republic, turned out not to be an interview in the conventional sense. I had submitted a number of written questions. The president told me he would send me written answers to these. (These answers have not arrived.) At our meeting, the president just wanted to get a few things, of his own choosing, off his chest. In the course of doing so, he asked me about as many questions as I did him.

First, he spoke of the growing refugee problem; there are now about 500,000 refugees from "the Ethiopian-held Western Somalia" (the Ogaden) in camps in the SDR, and probably at least as many more lodged with relatives or friends in Mogadishu, Harar and elsewhere. The refugees are still coming in, at the rate of more than 1,000 a day to the camps alone. The United Nations estimates that there may be about a million refugees in the camps by the end of 1980.

Barre saw no effective remedy for this, except that the refugees "should go back to their own place." No one, he said, "can be happy where they are not born." In holding on to Western Somalia which was "useless" to them, the Ethiopians were behaving "stupidly." "There is no infrastructure. There are no schools. The land is bad. Ethiopia does nothing for it. They invent nothing. There is only killing and killing."

He asked me why I thought in these circumstances Ethiopia was holding on to Western Somalia, denying it the right of self-determination. I said I had understood, only my recent visit to Ethiopia, that Ethiopians feared that if the principle of the inviolability of frontiers were to be abandoned in the case of the Ogaden, other minorities would press their claims, and the state of Ethiopia would disintegrate.

Barre appeared to contemplate this possibility with fortitude. "Ethiopia is not a country," he murmured. He went on to develop the favorite Somali analogy between Ethiopia and other colonial "empires." "The British and the French decolonized, setting their subjects free. Why won't the Ethiopians do the same? Why don't people ask them? Why are they supposed to be different? Is it because they are black?"

He raised his eyebrows, registering the self-evident absurdity of such a notion. He reproached the British for failing to press Ethiopia to follow the British example of decolonization. Somalis were distressed by this failure because "we are about half pro-British." (The SDR is made up of former British and Italian Somali colonies.) He thought Britain was influenced by a sentimental factor: "You like Ethiopia! The beauty of the country! Ah! The highlands!" He sighed, then grinned. (This is clearly a favorite theme of his; he reverted to it later, in the same style.)

"Why," he asked, "does the West not recognize the obvious justice of West Somalia's right to self-

determination? Why do they not support it, at least in principle? Why?" He paused for an answer. I said I thought that, since Ethiopia was inflexibly opposed to the possibility of a Somali secession, and since Ethiopia was supported in this by the Soviet Union (among many others), people in the West feared that Western support for the Somali position might raise the specter of a proxy war between the superpowers in the Ogaden and elsewhere — a war ruinous for the peoples of the Horn, and menacing to the peace of the world.

President Barre vehemently denied the existence of any such danger. "Somalia will not fight! We don't want to fight! We are not going to fight for them!" He stressed that the SDR was not trying to annex Western Somalia, just trying to secure self-determination for its people. Peacefully. The SDR was not supplying arms to the West Somali Liberation Front. "We have no money to supply arms!" I suggested that, in the new post-Afghanistan international atmosphere, this situation might change. I asked the president about the recent discussions in Mogadishu with representatives of the United States (the Bartholomew mission). Was it

not possible that the SDR might be re-armed, with the most modern weapons, as a result of this process of negotiation? And then might not arms also reach the West Somali Liberation Front?

Barre strongly denied that there was any possible connection between the question of the supply of arms to the SDR for its own defense, and the question of self-determination for Western Somalia: "The questions are totally separate. Nothing to do!" If Somalia got arms from the U.S. — and the talks were not really at that point yet — there was no way that any of these arms could go to the WSLF. "At all! Why should we?" In any case, if the U.S. did supply arms to the SDR, certain conditions would be attached to this transaction. One of these would certainly be that "none of the arms should be passed to a third country."

I asked whether the SDR really regarded Western Somalia as "a third country," rather than as part of one Somali nation? Speaking with deliberate emphasis, Barre replied: "It is a third country."

After a pause, he added that in any case, there were no real "negotiations" going on with the

Americans. "They are still conversations." On this note, the meeting ended.

Throughout Somalia there hang portraits of Siad Barre; these, appear to be more than portraits of Col. Mengistu of Ethiopia. The Barre portraits show a wooden-looking man, with that stubbornly lugubrious expression which is used by official artists everywhere to resist "idealism."

The man himself is utterly different from image. There is no stiffness about him at all, a composure. He has wonderfully mobile features and a wide infectious grin. His command of English is impressive, all the more for being support dramatic Italianate gestures. He is something, ham, and a gifted mimic.

For all that, he is very tough, very wily, experienced. He has held supreme power for 11 years and has survived for three years the test political test of all for a military head of military defeat (in the Ogaden in 1977 at the of the Ethiopians with Russian and Cuban support). Whether he accepts that defeat as final is a matter. (OFNS)

U.S., Soviets heading to the brink?

By Edward Teller

STANFORD, Calif. — The Russians are on the march toward the oil spigot. President Jimmy Carter is talking about drawing the line. The Americans should be asking, "With what do we draw the line?" The consequences of the U.S. past appeasement policy are now obvious. The U.S. must marshal its resources, or the price will be too great. Ironically, the Russians have already taken steps toward maintaining peace or, alternatively, surviving in war. The U.S. would be wise to imitate these steps.

First, Soviet leaders emphasize civil defense — the peaceful protection of their people against nuclear attack. Second, the Russians are building a facility for the mass production of nuclear reactors at Volgodonsk. The Russians are acting wisely on both counts. However, many Americans who honestly believe themselves peace-loving disagree with one or both of these positions. It is worthwhile to consider the issues further.

The U.S. has no civil defense because nuclear war is "unthinkable." However, the U.S. does have nuclear weapons for deterrence. Unfortunately, Afghanistan shows that the U.S. ability to deter the Soviet Union is rapidly eroding.

Some argue that civil defense is provocative. Four countries have strong civil defense: the Soviet Union, China, Switzerland and Sweden. Opponents of civil defense do not consider the civil defense of these nations provocative. I don't understand how civil defense can be more provocative than nuclear weapons.

Some argue that civil defense is impractical. One

element is certainly cheap and feasible: evacuation. In a threatening situation, the Russians are prepared to evacuate their cities. This would save their people. Ironically, the Americans, with many automobiles, could evacuate more effectively than the Russians, but if they continue to neglect planning, most Americans would die in a nuclear attack.

The new Federal Emergency Management Administration should have plans for counter-evacuation in case the U.S. saw that the Russians had evacuated their cities. The emergency administration does have evacuation plans for use in floods and hurricanes, similarly this agency should inform people about how to protect themselves in case of nuclear attack. Such information is inexpensive; however, it is unavailable for lack of funding.

Civil defense could become a truly peaceful deterrent. Being able to survive an atomic attack makes the attack less likely. If the Americans are prepared to evacuate, the Russians could never use their evacuation for blackmail. What must the Russians think of the U.S. when they see its nuclear arms but see no activity to protect its population? May they not think that the Americans are preparing a first strike?

I believe the absence of civil defense is provocative.

Let us turn to the second question. A Department of Energy official told me the other day that the Russians are emphasizing fission reactors. The U.S. has an opposite policy. Why? Because nuclear reactors are said to be dangerous. The fact is that 200 electricity-generating reactors in the free world have run for almost a decade, and no one has been

hurt. The safety record is unparalleled. It is said that the Americans have no meth waste disposal. A committee of the present American Physical Society found unanimously a good method of disposal exists. The report published in the January 1978 issue of *Revista Moderna Physics*. Apparently no one in Washington has read it yet.

Jimmy Carter contends that reprocessing fuel, a step necessary for continuing available nuclear energy, will lead to nuclear-weapons generation. However, no "nuclear-club" member obtained material for its first nuclear explosive power-generating reactors. Further, materials can be obtained from isotope separation well-known procedure that is becoming ever cheaper and simpler. Carter seems like a little boy with his finger in the smallest hole of a leaky dike. His policy of no-reprocessing in United States has led to more reprocessing abroad. The road to proliferation seems paved with intentions.

By contrast, Anatoly Aleksandrov, head of Russian Academy of Science, describes nuclear reactors as instruments of peace. He says that the shortage will lead to wars. Russians will avoid it since they will have enough energy from nuclear sources. The wars would only be between capitalist countries. I do not believe in the Kremlin's peace intentions; I do believe in Aleksandrov's good faith.

Peaceful intentions are not enough. Actions must be evaluated. Are they got to lead to war? Opponents of civil defense and fission reactors should take note. (NYT)

NO SOLUTION BEFORE MAY

The United Nations, the United States, and the Iranian government of President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, are all convinced by now that the crisis over the hostages held in the American embassy in Tehran will not be resolved before May. While U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim still insists that the international commission, which had recently left Tehran, has not failed in its mission, he has nevertheless suspended its activities, preventing it from publishing its report on the deposed Shah's regime until it is allowed to meet with the hostages and secure their release.

As for the Carter administration, its optimism over a quick release for the hostages has once more given way to gloom, with the only comfort deriving from the reports that all of those being held are alive and well. The administration now shares the view of the Bani-Sadr government in Tehran, which sees the hostages' fate as linked to the outcome of the Iranian parliamentary elections, the first stage of which started Friday.

The U.S. administration is banking on a massive victory for Bani-Sadr's candidates. But while Bani-Sadr's popularity is not in doubt, given his own overwhelming victory in the presidential elections, the parliamentary electoral system is such as to make an outright win for the moderate line represented by Bani-Sadr difficult.

The electoral law — imposed by the religious leadership over the objections of almost everyone else — requires a winning candidate to achieve an absolute majority in the first round; failing which a second poll is held, in which the candidate polling the highest figure is the winner.

Iranian lay political figures, especially the moderate ones who think they can score a massive victory on a simple first past the post basis, see in this a threat to their otherwise secure parliamentary majority. For it is expected that candidates defeated in the first poll would unite against the winner, possibly defeating him in the second poll.

The results of the first electoral round are expected to become known in the next few days; with the second round following on April 4. It is only then that the features of the parliament which is to dispose of the case of the hostages will be determined.

Zionist pressure on Britain as a result of its support for the French initiative was highlighted as a lead story in *Al Medina* Saturday. *Al Jazirah* led with a report on the withdrawal of the Egyptian forces from the Israeli front and concentrating the army around Cairo and borders with Libya. *Okaz* played as its lead Syrian President Hafez Assad's reaffirmation that his country was ready for a direct confrontation with Israel and the United States. *Al Riyadh* led with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's meeting with Palestinian resistance leaders on the organizational set up of the Palestinian movement, while *Al Yom* flashed as its lead Austria's recognition of the PLO and Israel's recall of its ambassador from Vienna in protest against the Austrian move.

Al Jazirah frontpaged Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri's arrival in Jeddah Saturday for talks with King Khalid and Crown Prince

Fahd on bilateral relations and the Middle East crisis. In a front-page story *Al Medina* highlighted Moroccan King Hassan's praise of Saudi-Moroccan cooperation on the opening of Al-Masirah dam which was completed with financial cooperation from the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD). The Arab League's celebration of its 35th anniversary on March 23 was a front-page story in *Al Riyadh*, while *Okaz* highlighted on its front page the arrival of an Australian trade mission in Riyadh Saturday to sign an economic cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia. *Al Yom* gave front-page highlight to Israel's former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan statement that Israel will find itself perched on a volcano if it does not resolve the Palestinian issue, while President Sadat of Egypt was reported to have threatened to take another course if the autonomy talks failed.

The papers generally dealt with developments in the Middle East issue in the wake of the U.S. turnaround from the Security Council's resolution that condemned Israel for its settlements policy in the occupied territory. They reiterated that America's abrupt stance contradicted its call to work for the stabilization of peace in the Middle East.

Al Medina dealt with the appointment of Yitzhak Shamir as Israeli foreign minister, saying it reaffirmed that the Israeli enemy was bent upon aggressive policies and creating provocations despite changes in the international situation. The paper referred to Shamir's attitude which is known for its intransigence in regard to the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Shamir lost no time after his appointment to declare Israel's refusal to go back to the 1967 borders and to accept a Palestinian state, the paper added.

Al Riyadh said in an editorial that cohesion now existing between the Arab world and Europe seemed to be almost like a common destiny. It does not mean trade exchanges and other common interests as much as it reflects their political unity and their abhorrence of foreign domination represented in the two superpowers who try to keep the Middle East under their domination.

The paper said both the Arab world and Europe have felt the need for making a quick exit from the vicious circle and make use of their available potential in the light of a positive attitude shown by France in its recent statement on the rights of the Palestinian people. The paper said that Europe's support for the Arab stance became evident when it welcomed the outcome of the French President's visit and considered it a basic and significant factor in consolidating European

unity and drifting away gradually from the American and Soviet influence.

Commenting on Egypt's reported intention of creating a special force for a swift intervention in the Gulf, *Al Jazirah* asked how Sadat can do so without seeking permission from the leaders of the region. It said the United States and the Soviet Union have studied idea of military intervention in the region. Their leaders, it said, have not lost their brain while Sadat and his officials have gone berserk and therefore speak what the devil incites them to utter.

The paper added that the aim behind this move seems to disperse the Egyptian army and to keep them in such a state that they don't find themselves capable of responding to the calls of the Egyptian people against Sadat and his regime.



Egypt asks the U.S. to take a more distinct stance.

ملكيه الاسلام

Children of Cambodia

By William Saxon
Newsday

NONG SAMET, Thai-Cambodian Border—George Shaw brandishes a thick bamboo club and shouts fiercely at the pressing mob of 300 or 400. "Toa li, toa li," he screams. "Get back, get back."

The menacing crowd retreats out of reach of Shaw's stick. Suddenly a dozen young Cambodians appear behind the short Alaskan inside the stick-and-straw hut he is supposed to guard. Shaw scowls, shouts again and counterattacks. But by now a hundred or more invaders have stormed through the front gate. Shaw is captured.

It is a game played every morning while the orphaned children of the Nong Samet refugee camp wait anxiously for the trucks that bring them the only meal they will eat that day. They tussle good humor, the children smiling and giggling as again and again they overpower the patient, placid Shaw, a

The anxiety mounts when two station wagons of the International Red Cross Committee pull up alongside Shaw's hut, carrying a Finnish medical team. An alert has been declared because of a reported incident — no one knows what sort of incident — near the perimeter. All foreign relief personnel are on standby to evacuate.

At 2 p.m., the trucks finally appear through the dust on the red dirt track linking the camp with Thailand. There are two little Japanese pickup trucks, loaded with huge, steaming pots of rice and stew, large cartons of biscuits and the kitchen crew of eight Thai men and Cambodian refugee women.

The kitchen workers, who chopped and boiled the food over charcoal fires in the sanctuary of Thailand two miles back, join Shaw and Rev. Mel Herber, the team leader, to clear a path through the children. By now there are about 800 or 900 of them, each clutching a small bowl, each desperately hungry in the midday tropical heat, each surely

There are no markers. One checks the battle order every morning before setting forth.

In this dusty, barren countryside — it is the dry season, and when the rains come in May, it will become jungle again — there are three kinds of refugees.

The lucky ones are "stateless." They have been accepted into the official refugee camps to await emigration to a third country like the United States.

Next come the "undocumented" — perhaps 250,000 Cambodians temporarily tolerated by the Thais in special border camps on the assumption that they will be returned to Cambodia. That is tantamount to death in the present circumstances, but at least the undocumented get fed while awaiting their fate. They are relatively healthy, active and decently clothed for the most part, thanks to the aid launched last fall about the time Rosalynn Carter was here.

Finally, there are the estimated 600,000 to 1 million Cambodians massed immediately across the tenuous border, kept from crossing over by a strong Thai military blockade, but sustained — barely — by international food supplies that penetrate daily through the military lines.

Within the rest of Cambodia, millions under Vietnamese control teeter on the brink of starvation, too weak to head for the border. Only a quarter of Cambodia's rice crop this year is believed to have been successfully harvested, and that is already running out. For many, the only food arrives via the black market. Hardy traders who collect free rice from international relief agencies in Thailand carry it inland on their heads, on shoulder poles and on ox carts and sell it for what the market will bear. Relief officials here don't really object. The immorality of it isn't as important as saving lives. And because much of the border is mined and Vietnamese troops are said to arrest the traders and confiscate their loads, they are entitled to something, relief officials say.

At Nong Samet, which sprawls over several square miles — perhaps one-quarter of it in Thailand and three-quarters in Cambodia — black marketers and Free Khmer guerrillas haven't been the only people penetrating inside Cambodia.

Donald Gatch of Phoenix, Arizona, a volunteer physician who arrived in Thailand Dec. 20 and established the Catholic Relief Services feeding station here, was slipping deeper and deeper inside Cambodia to treat the ill. One Sunday on such a foray, Gatch, 50, came across a previously unreported mass of 8,000 Cambodians sprawled in an open field. They had drunk no water for four days. Three dozen men were near death.

The doctor returned to plead with Thai military authorities to permit tank trucks to cross into the area with water. Before Gatch could return to aid the group, however, he himself was dead — the victim of an auto accident Feb. 4 on one of the chaotic Thai roads.

Herber, the young Indiana priest who had been assisting him, took over the Nong Samet feeding team. "The bishop telephoned me on New Year's Day," Herber said. "He said, how would I like to go to Thailand? All I could think of was silk worms. But I said I might as well take my chances in Thailand as end up retiring in a country parish."

Nine days later, the young priest was here, riding out to Nong Samet on one of the food trucks with Gatch. "We turned off the paved road and went a long way down a dirt road and then crossed a rice paddy," he said. "I asked Don why we weren't on the road. He said it was mined. And then he really shook me. He turned and said, 'We're in Cambodia, you know.'"

At 7 every morning, the CRS trucks start on their rounds. The truck that picked up



Herber, in white painter's overalls, and a sister, in green surgical garb, stopped next at the Red Cross warehouse, where Thai workmen piled aboard six plastic garbage bags filled with dressed whole chickens, four sacks of cabbage, a huge wicker basket of greens, cartons of biscuits, and heavy bags of rice.

After clearing four Thai military checkpoints, the truck reached Gatch's famous "country kitchen" — a Buddhist monastery on the Thai side. The late physician had persuaded its abbot to house the cooking operation in return for three modern toilets installed by the CRS. Thai workers from the neighborhood had already built charcoal fires in makeshift stoves. Soon the second truck, manned by Shaw, arrived from the camp with a half dozen Cambodian women. Who would chop and prepare the tubs of stew while the men boiled and stirred huge pots of rice. It is unlawful to pay refugees in cash, so each would receive a big can of sardines for the day's work.

After an audience with the abbot and his monks, the Americans headed two miles up to the camp itself, far beyond the last Thai checkpoint. Gatch's death left one sad detail to be accomplished here. The Free Khmer camp commander, Pot Chantha, had become a close friend of the doctor and, at one point, gave him \$100 to buy an instant-picture camera for the Free Khmer force. The money was in Gatch's pocket when he died.

Herber returned with Gatch's interpreter, Vann Sotai, 23, an English-speaking Khmer woman he had found in the camp, to return it. The three spoke earnestly outside Pot's straw headquarters hut. Suddenly the tough soldier brushed a tear from his eye, then turned away and sobbed. Herber embraced him.

Straightening the pistol slung at his waist, Pot strode back to his headquarters and bade the visitors farewell. Grief simply has to pass quickly here, for there is so much of it.

It is bad enough to see the hundreds of young boys and girls congregating at the CRS hut, separated from parents and kin, not knowing whether their families survive, feeding for themselves in a hut city of 120,000, many condemned to bear for life the scars of malnutrition. It is worse to realize that these 120,000 and similar numbers of undocumented refugees at two other camps — may soon be driven back to sure death, or destroyed in the crossfire of war. For they are literally sandwiched between two armies drawn for battle, and the general expectation among the international workers was that

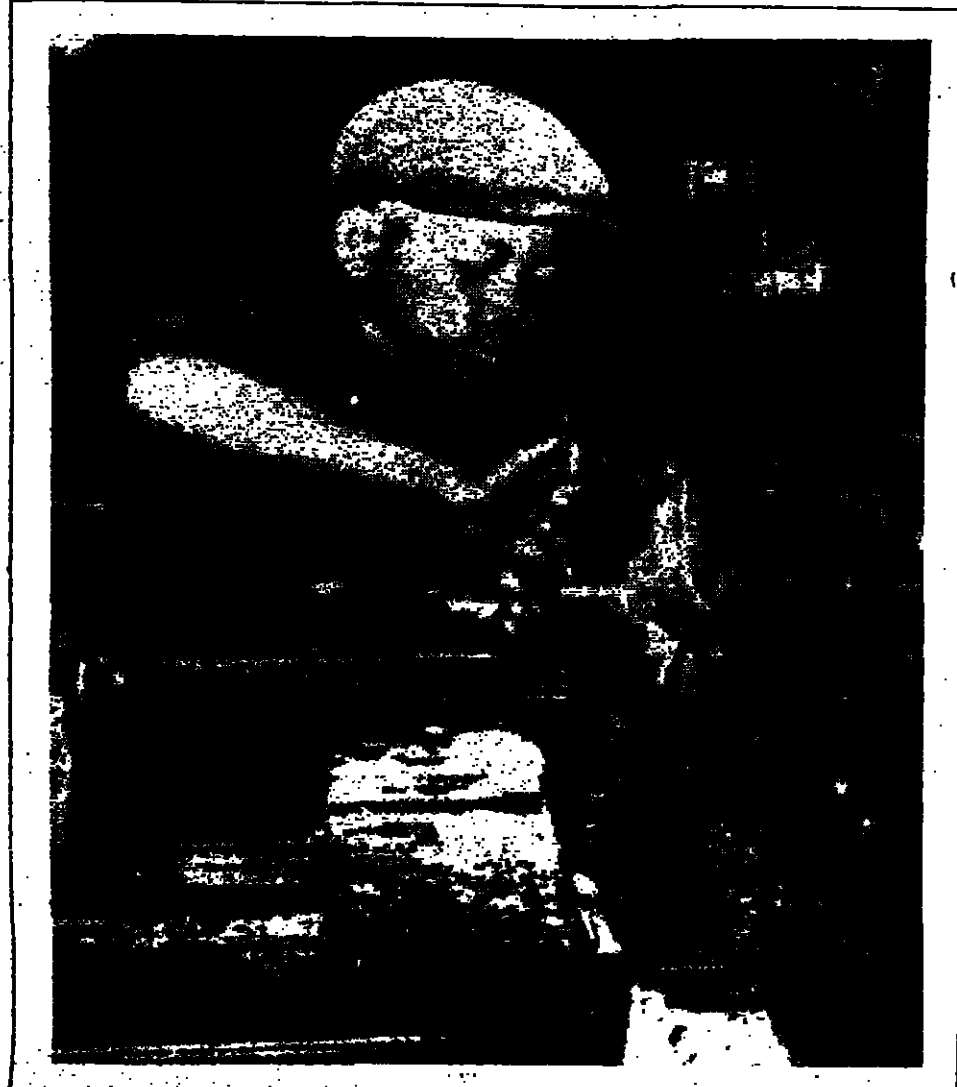
one side or the other would move very soon.

Yet, they are really the fortunate Khmer. Homeless, trapped, they still have food. On the other side, millions are slowly starving to death. Three indelible impressions from the visit to Nong Samet refugee camp: The modest selflessness of the Americans, other foreigners and Thais, who by the hundreds dropped their work at home last fall when they heard the plight of the "land people," so long forgotten. The amazing dignity, patience, kindness and grace of the Khmers. Never is a hand held out in begging, but many times in warmth and friendliness. And the shocking

reality that all the good will in the world hasn't been sufficient to end the suffering of this docile, cultured race.

At the CRS headquarters in Aranyap rather, a sleepy border town turned into a teeming metropolis this winter by the great international relief operation, friends have gathered to offer a memorial mass for Don Gatch. But the sadness that night wasn't just for their doctor friend.

Sister who is a nurse from one of the other camps mentioned a show that had just been organized among camp children, part of the constant effort to keep spirits alive.



refinery expert in his 40s who came here in December as a volunteer relief worker.

But this day the trucks are late. A small, brown boy with only a towel for clothing — he is the size of 3-year-old but probably is 4 or 5 — bursts into tears. George Shaw's eyes begin to show tension.

About noon, a burst of automatic weapons fire is heard.

Nong Samet camp, which houses 120,000 anti-Communist Free Cambodians — including their minuscule guerrilla armies — lies in a no-man's-land between Thai and Vietnamese troops, and its inhabitants are in constant fear of attacks from one side or other.

aware that, on most days, the food runs out before the last few children can be fed.

"Every day I cry," said Herber, 31, a Catholic parish priest from Mishawaka, Indiana.

In an hour, every child and a few empty-eyed mothers breast-feeding infants have been dished up a big plateful of rice topped with stew. This day, only the biscuits run short.

"It is like the story I learned in the church in Phnom Penh," says Eng Savrin, a Protestant refugee who works with Catholic relief services as a nurse. "I mean the story of Christ with the loaves and fishes."

Except at a half dozen fortified road crossings, the border between Thailand and Cambodia happens to be wherever the biggest military unit in the vicinity says it is.

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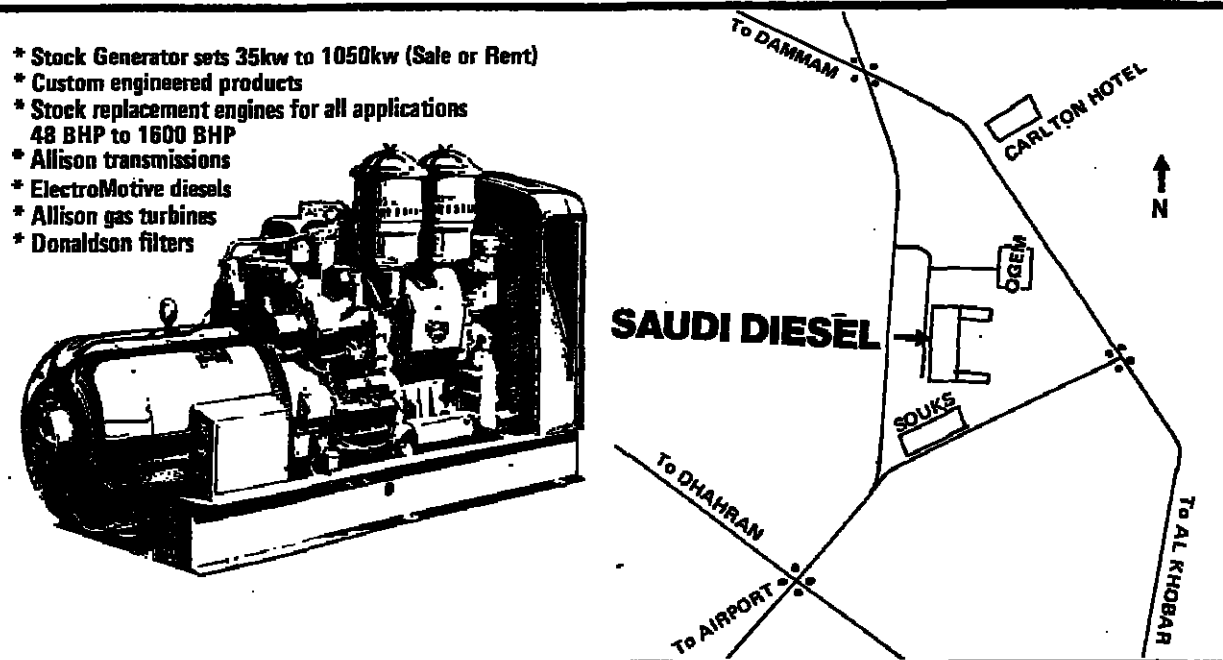


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Carter announces 'tough' anti-inflation program

WASHINGTON, March 15 (R) — President Jimmy Carter told Americans Friday night that his tough anti-inflation program would hurt at first but would then shape them into champions.

Carter told a press conference after announcing severe budget cuts and other stringent measures that Americans were living too high on too much credit.

He said they were ignoring the old adage that a penny saved was a penny earned and now believed that a penny borrowed was a penny earned.

"We are similar to a superb athlete who has simply got out of shape," he said in discussing his plans to fight 18 per cent inflation. "Our economy can perform again like a champion."

The president held out the prospect of an economically fit United States a few hours after proposing a cut of \$14 billion in the 1981 budget and imposing a \$4.60 tax on each barrel of imported oil.

The 1981 budget he gave Congress in January called for spending of \$616 billion, including \$143 billion for defense, and estimated a deficit of \$16 billion.

The \$14 billion budget cut, which must be approved by Congress, together with 10 billion expected from the oil import tax, would wipe out the deficit. Estimates of that deficit have now increased to about \$20 billion.

The president said his anti-inflation program could produce a budget surplus of up to \$13 billion in the 1981 financial year starting Oct. 1.

A 13 billion surplus would be the highest in U.S. history, surpassing the 12 billion figure recorded in 1948 and would break a string of successive budget deficits in the past decade. The last budget surplus was in 1969.

The oil import tax would add about 10 cents to the retail price of a gallon of petrol, which averaged at \$1.11 in January and now is in the \$1.25 range. That is more than 60 per cent above the cost a year earlier.

Carter acknowledged that in the short run the tax would increase inflation but said it would save some 250,000 barrels of imported

oil a day in 1981 and help to limit future price increases.

Carter, who flew to his Camp David retreat in Maryland for the weekend after his White House press conference, said that his spending cuts would affect virtually every program except defense.

Among programs to be reduced are federal grants to states, energy development, foreign aid, highway construction, mental health and mass transportation.

The president said he had been promised full cooperation by Republicans as well as by fellow Democrats in the Democratic-controlled Congress but his tough election year actions led to the protest that could indicate some trouble ahead.

Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, saying the program would throw people out of work, said he would organize a protest march on Washington on May 17.

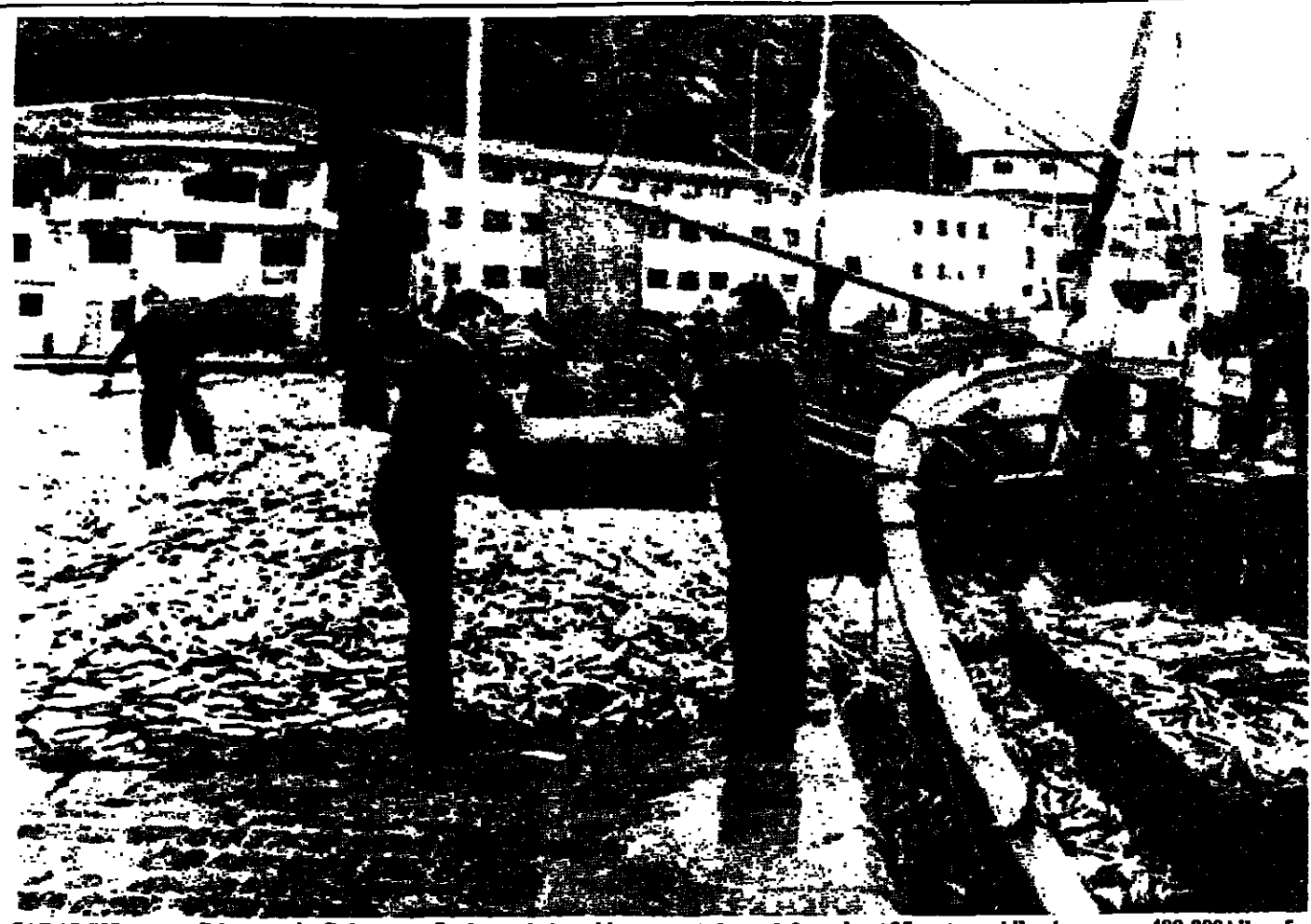
In addition to the budget cuts, actions taken by the president and the Federal Reserve Board included restraints on certain types of consumer credit and on the rapid expansion of money market mutual funds, which are paying high interest rates to small depositors.

The Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, also raised its bank lending rate to 16 per cent from 13 per cent for repeated borrowers as part of its package of credit restraints.

Carter said at his press conference that he rejected a statement from black members of Congress, known as the Black Caucus, that his program was a disaster.

He said he had greatly expanded programs for the poor in the past three years and that the chief victims of uncontrolled inflation would be families with low or fixed incomes.

Carter said the proposed budget cuts might prove to be politically difficult during his 1980 campaign for re-election which has got off to a good start with major victories in several primary elections against his main Democratic rival, Sen. Edward Kennedy.



SARDINES: Angry fishermen in Guipuzcoa, Spain not being able to sell their catch for at least 25 cents per kilo, dump over 400,000 kilos of sardines before selling for a lower price. The best offer they received last week was 8 cents per kilo.

Switzerland receives highest world credit bankers' rating

NEW YORK, March 15 (AP) — Switzerland is now the world's most credit worthy nation, according to a survey of 101 international banks made by *Institutional Investor*, a U.S. business magazine.

The United States, which was ranked number one in the last survey made in September 1979, dropped to third place in the latest survey, made in March 1980. West Germany held second place both years. Switzerland was third last year.

Uganda and Zaire were at the bottom again this year.

The bankers were asked by institutional investor to rank countries on a scale from zero to 100. The scale measures bankers' confidence in each country regarding the probability of timely repayment of interest and principal on loans from international banks.

Switzerland got a rating of 98.5 in 1980 and 98.2 in 1979. Bottom-rated Zaire dropped from 9.8 last year to 7.5 in 1980.

The magazine notes that the average of all 96 nations rated dropped 1.9 points from 55.4 to 53.5 from last year to this. This shows that bankers are "more jittery about world credit" than a year ago, *Institutional Investor* says.

"The biggest bombshell is the decline of the United States from number one to number three," the survey said. "In more tranquil times it would be unthinkable to rank the United States anything but number one. The ascendancy of neutral, safe-haven Switzerland, ahead of Germany, is an equally telling sign of the bankers' jitters."

"The global crisis over Afghanistan took its toll on nearly all the Comecon countries, as bankers obviously concluded that the USSR's conflicts with the West inevitably would infect its socialist brethren."

The magazine says that bankers were asked to grade the credit-worthiness of each of the countries. In all, 101 banks responded. Bankers were not permitted to rate their own countries. The individual responses were weighted, giving more weight to responses from banks with the largest lending exposure.

The top ten, with last year's rank in parentheses:

Rank	Country	Credit rating	Change
1 (3)	Switzerland	98.5	Up 0.3
2 (2)	West Germany	98.4	Up 0.1
3 (1)	United States	96.2	Down 0.7
4 (14)	Japan	95.4	Down 1.5
5 (5)	Canada	93.2	Down 0.3
6 (6)	France	92.3	Up 1.2
7 (7)	United Kingdom	91.5	Up 0.7
8 (8)	Netherlands	90.9	Up 0.2
9 (10)	Australia	89.2	Up 0.5
10 (19)	Norway	88.2	Down 0.7

(Norway was fractionally lower than Australia before the figures were rounded to the first decimal place).

The biggest losers in the 1980 survey compared with their 1979 rankings were Iran (down 20.4 points), Poland (down 7.9) and the Soviet Union (down 7.3).

The biggest gainers were Peru (up 4.5), China (up 2.6) and Portugal (up 2.6).

"Ironically," *Institutional Investor* says, South Africa, "one of the countries bankers in recent years have been most reluctant to lend to is the one whose credit-worthiness they still consider the best in Africa."

Africa's "fortunes literally rise with the escalating price of gold and diamonds."

"The majority of African countries were downgraded by pessimistic bankers, a gloomy background that only made the modest rating increase scored by Gabon more impressive, with help from France and the International Monetary Fund, Gabon is putting its house in order. The Congo registered the largest rating drop, and Zaire had the unhappy distinction of displacing Uganda in lenders' eyes as the riskiest country in Africa — and the world."

Institutional Investor says that bankers "have revised their opinions of the Middle East to a greater extent than any other region...with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan complicating the analysis of already tense, complex regional dynamics, uncertainty about even near-term developments prevails."

The freeing of Iranian assets (by the U.S.) has thrust the banking community into uncharted legal territory.

"This, coupled with continued economic and social mayhem in Iran, accounts, for that country's spectacular 20-point drop in the ratings — the largest of any country in the world."

IMF arranges SDRs donations to poor nations

WASHINGTON, March 15 (AP) — The International Monetary Fund has announced that in the future, generous-minded governments can make donations to poorer countries in the form of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) — the "paper gold" designed to replace actual gold and national currencies in the reserves that governments hold.

Each SDR is now worth about \$1.30 and the IMF has issued \$17.4 billion of them over the past 10 years. They do not exist as coins or paper money, but only on the ledgers and computer tapes of the IMF and its 140 member governments.

The original object was to provide the world with a controllable basis for its currencies that was independent of the unpredictable production of gold in South Africa and the Soviet Union, and the unpredictable domestic policies of the United States. The dollar is the main reserve that many countries hold, and Americans are the judges of how many dollars are to be issued.

Americans have pumped out so many that there has been a smaller number of SDRs issued than was originally expected.

Prime rate hits 18.5%

NEW YORK, March 15 (AP) — Citibank, the second-largest commercial bank in the United States, raised its prime lending rate Friday to a record 18.5 per cent, pushing up the cost of business borrowing by another match.

The action came just one day after many other major American banks boosted their rates to 18.25 per cent from the 17.75 per cent rate that had been set just last week.

Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co., ranked fourth in the nation, joined in the 18.5 per cent rate.

Wall Street Weekly: 'Bad times ahead'

NEW YORK, March 15 (AP) — What ever the impact of the U.S. government's latest anti-inflation moves, many Wall Street analysts warn that the American economy is headed for some bad times in the next few months.

The belief is spreading in the financial community that rapid inflation and recent high-interest rates have set the stage for an economic slump that could rival the 1973-74 recession in severity.

While President Jimmy Carter and government leaders were debating their options over the past few weeks, analysts maintain market forces were already at work pushing the economy toward a potentially painful slide. In a report written early this month Allen Sinai of the Lexington, Mass., Firm Data Resources Inc. declared: "The prospect of a credit crunch and recession has become a reality."

At about the same time, Erich Heinemann of the investment banking firm of Morgan Stanley and Co., advised the firm's clients "The great credit crunch of 1980 is now taking shape."

Some observers began forecasting a recession as long ago as 1976 or 1977. Until now they have been wrong. But this time, analysts say, the various financial markets — where traders express their convictions with money, not words — are beginning to behave as if a slump is finally at hand.

The inflation-hedge commodities, gold and silver, have suffered a sharp price rise in the past six weeks, with gold falling from January peak of \$875 an ounce to just over \$500 early Friday, and silver skidding from around \$50 an ounce to just over \$25.

"If the action of the various commodity markets over the past few weeks is any indication, deflation rather than inflation may be the new threat," observed Newton Zinder, E.F. Hutton and Co.

And the stock market, which began the year in a sort of inflationary boom, has now divided of late in apparent anticipation of trouble ahead for corporate profits.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks recorded its fifth consecutive weekly decline this past week with an 8.87 loss to 811.69. Since mid-February the average has fallen 92.15 points, in a decline just about as severe as last October's "massacre."

Other weekly readings showed the New York Stock Exchange Composite Index down and the American stock exchange market value index off 15.47 at 262.03.

Big board volume averaged 38.27 million shares a day, against 46.65 million the week before.

For a year or more, many Wall Street analysts have been saying that a recession was needed to squeeze out some of the inflationary pressures in the economy. But they acknowledge that, needed or not, it isn't likely to be a pleasant experience.

"Economic activity will have to move sharply lower before interest rates can turn down and pressures ease in the financial markets," Sinai wrote.

Nevertheless, analysts say such a slump could lead to a long-awaited downturn in interest rates in the next few months — though they may not yet have reached their peak — and some letup in inflation.

Morgan Stanley's Heinemann said in an interview Friday that the rate of inflation, as reported by the government in its consumer price index, could slow to below 10 per cent in the second half of the year.

Those developments, in turn, would logically bring some relief to the battered bond market.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Quoted at 6.00 P.M. Saturday

	SAMA	Cash	Transfer
U.S. Dollar	3.34	3.35	3.35
Pound Sterling	7.39	7.50	7.43
Deutsche Mark (100)	182.00	186.00	182.65
Swiss F (100)	190.00	193.00	190.70
French F (100)	78.00	80.00	79.00
Italian Lira (10,000)	39.00	40.50	40.00
Lebanese Lira (100)	—	99.50	99.00
Syrian Lira (100)	—	79.50	86.60
Egyptian Pound	—	4.50	4.45
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	12.13	12.13
Jordanian Dinar	—	11.30	11.15
Emirates Dirham (100)	—	89.80	89.80
Qatari Riyal (100)	—	91.40	91.40
Bahraini Dinar	—	8.95	8.95
Iranian Riyal (100)	—	—	—
Iraqi Dinar (100)	—	—	—
Yemeni Riyal (100)	—	74.25	73.75
Moroccan Dirham (100)	—	84.50	88.50
Indian Rupee (100)	—	—	41.20
Pakistani Rupee (100)	—	—	34.00
Gold kg.	—	57,500.00	—
10 Tolas bar	—	6,700.00	—
Silver kg.	—	—	—
Japanese Yen (1,000)	13.40	—	13.55
Canadian Dollar	2.84	—	—
Belgian Franc (1,000)	112.00	118.00	—
Dutch Guilder (1,000)	166.00	—	166.50
Spanish Peso (1,000)	—	50.50	51.00
Greek Drachma (1,000)	—	83.00	—
Philippines Peso (1,000)	—	—	—
Singapore	—	—	1.55

Cash and Transfer rates supplied by Al-Rajhi Company for Currency Exchange and Commerce, Gabel St., Jeddah — Tel: 23815

PORTS AUTHORITY JEDDAH ISLAMIC PORT

SHIPS MOVEMENTS UP TO 0700 HRS ON THE 15TH MARCH, 1980 28TH RABI THANI, 1400

Berth	Name of Vessel	Agent	Type of Cargo	Arrival
1A	Mercantile Transporter	Il Orri	Ro Ro	14-3-80
2	Jensen Maru	Alireza	Vehicles	14-3-80
4	Minden	O.C.E.	Reefer	8-3-80
5	Alaska	El Hawi	Reefer	13-3-80
6	Orgeo	Najd	Coffee/H.Beans/S. Seeds	13-3-80
7	Arya Dad	S.E.A.	Gen/Tobacco/Steel	14-3-80
8	Scapwell	S.C.S.A.	Bagged Grain	5-3-80
10	Union Lisour	O.C.E.	Contrs/Steel/General	14-3-80
11	Demetrios C	O.C.E.	Reefer	7-3-80
12	Ibn Al Nafes	anoo	Gen./C.C./Cargers	14-3-80
13	Char Loong	Abdulla	Gen./Contrs/Steel Sheets	11-3-80
14	Zygmunt Stary	Attar	Iron. Pipes/General	13-3-80
18	Pytheus	Rolaco	Bulk Cement	13-3-80
19	Medicament Carrier	Rolaco	Bulk Cement	13-3-80
21	Agelos Protastatis	A.A.	Bagged Cement	8-3-80
23	Albyon	B.A.	Bagged Cement	9-3-80
26	Guerilla	S.S.M.C.	Durra	12-3-80
27	Susie U	Orr	Reefer	1-3-80
28	Afric Star	Star	Reefer	11-3-80
30	Korinthos	M.T.A.	Reefer	11-3-80
38	Gonzalo	Attar	MTY Pallets/General	14-3-80
41	Charity	Alpha	Bagged Barley	9-3-80
42	Houda Beauty	Alwani	Steel/Plywood	13-3-80
Ro Ro	Farha	H.S.S.C.	Ro Ro	14-3-80
	Elena	Kanoo	Ro Ro	14-3-80
	Merzario Arabia	A.E.T.	Ro Ro	14-3-80

KING ABDUL AZIZ PORT SHIP MOVEMENT UPTO 0700 HRS ON 28.4.1400/15.3.1980 — CHANGES PAST 48 HOURS.

		Type of Cargo	Arrival	
2	Corinthic	Gulf	Barley in Bags	14-3-80
9	Kaptai	SEA	Gen-Steel-Conts.	14-3-80
10	Tsing Yi Island	UEP	Barley-Gen	11-3-80
12	Maldiva Trust	ORRI	General	14-3-80
20	Lewtane	Gosalbi	Cement in Bags	11-3-80
21	Selshin	AET	Bulk Cement	15-3-80
23	Saudi Express	SMC	Ro-Ro/Conts.	15-3-80
24	Freinfels	Alireza	Containers	14-3-80
28	Marla	Gosalbi	Barley in Bags	14-3-80
28	Alexandria	Kanoo	General	11-3-80
29	Finamar	SMC	Bar/Conts.	14-3-80
33	Yung Fan Lu	Gosalbi	Gen/Conts.	13-3-80
36	Psara Flag	SMC	Cement silo Vessel	1.4.80

Market gains in moderate trading

NEW YORK, March 15 — The market churned throughout Friday in moderate trading. Early trading saw the DJIA off a little over 5 points. A recovery in mid-afternoon trading pushed the market into positive ground as the DJIA showed a point gain of more than 6 points. Easing from its afternoon high the DJIA closed up 2.13 at 811.69, the DJIA down 1.37 at 261.78 and the DJIA off 40 at 102.81. Volume of trading, 35.42 million shares. Declining issues 862 led advancing issues 613 with 399unch. New hi's totalled 2 while new lo's totalled 172. The AMEX 263.03-4.08 in the OTC market, the NASDAQ comp. 155.44-53.

President Jimmy Carter announced the details of his proposed anti-inflation program. The Federal Reserve Board released U.S. and foreign exchange rates showing a slight rise of 0.2 per cent for February. The prime rate 18 1/2 per cent. M-1 A Down 200 million and M-1-B rose 200 million. The nation's bank loans rose \$27 million.

In the energy sector, Midec down 1 to 60 1/2, Mobil off 1 to 74 1/2, Std. of Oil off 1 to 73 1/2, Union Oil of Cal. off 2 to 49, Murphy lost 1 to 97 1/2, Getty up 1 to 78 1/2, Marathon Oil up 1 to 60, Phillips lost 1 to 23, Hughes Tool down 1 to 56 1/2 and Tronox off 1 to 38 1/2.

Among the growth and glamour, March lost 1 to 61 1/2, Pfizer up 1 to 24, Scitab down 1 to 50 1/2, Baxter Lab. off 1 to 37 1/2, Kodak up 1 to 44 1/2, Fed. Dept. Stores down 1 to 22 1/2, J.C. Penney up 1 to 22 1/2, Sears up 1 to 15 1/2, and Time Inc. up 1 to 46 1/2.

Allied Chem. gained 1 to 52 1/2, Messum up 1 to 50 1/2, Kierulff Clark off 1 to 42 1/2, Qr. No. Nelson up 1 to 33 1/2, Bole Canada off 1 to 34 1/2, Weyerhaeuser up 1 to 31 1/2 and First. Federation up 1 to 28 in the basic industry issues. Ford lost 1 to 29 1/2 in the auto. Reynolds off 1 to 19 1/2, Gen. Harvesting up 1 to 30 1/2 and Ingersoll Rand up 1 to 55 1/2 in the machinery issues. Bally up 1 to 27 in the gaming stocks.

Among the aerospace, defense and rail, Boeing off 1 to 58 1/2, Northrop down 1 to 51 1/2, General Dynamics down 1 to 71 1/2, Northrop up 1 to 23 1/2, Northrop and Westing up 1 to 26 1/2 and Union Pacific down 1 to 34 1/2.

In the metal and precious metals, Phelps Dodge down 1 to 32 1/2, New Mining up 1 to 40 1/2, Campbell Red Lake off 1 to 31 1/2, Dome Mines down 1 to 59 1/2, Hecla Mining off 2 to 31 1/2, and Romarco Resources off 2 to 61 1/2.

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Saudi Arabian Government Tenders

Authority	Description	No. of Tender	Price SR	Closing Date
Directorate of the National Guard, Riyadh	Supply and installation of power units to the fire-fighting station in Khashm Al-Aan	22-99/400	200	March 22
Islamic University, Medina	Catering for university students	14	200	March 29
Ministry of Public Works and Housing	Maintenance of photographic and printing machines, typewriters, calculators, stencil machines and microfilm instruments	2-99/400	100	March 31
Municipality of Al-Asyad	Temporary asphaltting in some villages	15/26D/11	250	April 13
Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs	Illumination of new roads in Sabayia	4-400	300	April 12
	Temporary asphaltting of roads in the town	5-400	500	April 13

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International Share Information البورصات الدولية

Harold	20%	20%	Cycle & Carriage	3.04	3.02
Factor Gamble	55	65%	City Development	2.11	2.13
De, Steve Elect	16%	16%	Cold Storage	3.10	3.10
De, Steve Elect	95	95%	Cons. Plants	5.65	5.70
De, Steve Elect	26%	26	D.S.S.	2.87	2.87
De, Steve Elect	23%	22%	F.N.N.	6.80	6.85
De, Steve Elect	17%	16	Hee Par Bros.	1.91	1.97
De, Steve Elect	74%	74%	Interphase	2.25	2.25
De, Steve Elect	21%	21%	I and R Co.	(NT)	(NT)
De, Steve Elect	37	36%	Jardine Matheson	(NT)	(NT)
De, Steve Elect	35	35%	Kempas	6.20	6.20
De, Steve Elect	35	35%	Ki Konging	4.18	4.20
De, Steve Elect	23%	23%	Malayan Trading	3.90	3.95
De, Steve Elect	30%	31%	Malayan Tobacco	4.22	(NT)
De, Steve Elect	30%	31%	N. Borneo Timber	2.00	(NT)
De, Steve Elect	22%	22%	Nedlerr	6.40	6.40
De, Steve Elect	23%	23%	N. Sarendah	(NT)	(NT)
De, Steve Elect	58%	58%	O.C.C.	4.22	4.22
De, Steve Elect	58%	58%	Rotterdam	4.22	4.12
De, Steve Elect	40%	40%	Satron	(NT)	(NT)
De, Steve Elect	23%	23%	Stine Darby Hodge	4.50	4.58
De, Steve Elect	74%	74%	Singapore Land	3.88	3.88
De, Steve Elect	106%	107%	Strata Traders	9.70	9.85
De, Steve Elect	17%	17%	T. Harbort	(NT)	(NT)
De, Steve Elect	32%	32%	Tenaga	(NT)	(NT)
De, Steve Elect	43%	43%	Timorland	(NT)	(NT)
De, Steve Elect	39%	39%	Tractors Malaysia	(NT)	7.16
De, Steve Elect	54%	54%	U.S.O. Inc.	(NT)	1.88
De, Steve Elect	35%	34%	Winnah	6.48	6.48
De, Steve Elect	38%	39%	Wright Jones Co.	(NT)	(NT)
De, Steve Elect	6	6			
De, Steve Elect	21%	21%		Closing	Closing
De, Steve Elect	39%	39%		Price	Price
De, Steve Elect	51%	51%		Price	Price
De, Steve Elect	28	28%			
De, Steve Elect	31%	31%			
De, Steve Elect	100%	100%			
De, Steve Elect	83%	83%			
De, Steve Elect	16%	16%			
De, Steve Elect	13%	14%			
De, Steve Elect	75%	74%			
De, Steve Elect	14%	14%			
De, Steve Elect	42	42%			
De, Steve Elect	142%	142%			
De, Steve Elect	36%	37%			
De, Steve Elect	36%	37%			
De, Steve Elect	82%	81%			
De, Steve Elect	15%	16%			
De, Steve Elect	26%	26%			
De, Steve Elect	51%	51%			
De, Steve Elect	21	21%			
De, Steve Elect	31	31%			
De, Steve Elect	12%	12%			
De, Steve Elect	44	44%			
De, Steve Elect	189	191			
De, Steve Elect	22	24%			
De, Steve Elect	42	40%			
De, Steve Elect	53%	53%			
De, Steve Elect	67%	67%			
De, Steve Elect	40	38%			
De, Steve Elect	10	10%			
De, Steve Elect	138	138			
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De, Steve Elect	53%	53%			
De, Steve Elect	67%	67%			
De, Steve Elect	40	38%			

U.S. \$

الدولار

London Interbank
Spot Dollar Middle Rates
as quoted by Bank of America IFC

	Mar. 12	Mar. 11
Britain	2.2380	2.2312
Switzerland	1.7275	1.7285
Italy	2.8830	2,880.00
France	4.2233	4.2277
W. Germany	1.8038	1.8070
Netherlands	2.9320	2.9360
Belgen C.F.	30.280	30.285
Belgium F.	30.280	30.285
Denmark	5.5340	5.5410
Norway	4.9355	4.9365
Sweden	4.2775	4.2145
Japan	246.570	246.520
Finland	12.8345	12.8348
Canada	1.1836	1.1851
Australia	1.09124	1.0985
New Zealand	0.7124	0.7125
	3.9820	3.9810

E (STERLING)

الجنيه

Clothing Spot Sterling Rates
at London

	March 12
USA	2.2340-2.2350
Canada	2.9075-2.9095
Switzerland	3.8600-3.8640
W. Germany	4.4380-4.4940
Netherlands	5.4425-5.4525
Netherlands	4.4275-4.4225
Belgen C.F.	65.57-65.87
Belgium F.	67.60-67.70
Sweden	5.9575-5.9770
Denmark	12.9950-12.9950
Norway	15.1570-15.1570
Japan	1.6740-1.6750
Spain	151.05-151.25
Portugal	108.25-108.40
Australia	12.80-98.20
Japan	351.00-352.00
Ireland	1.8330-1.8945

Frankfurt
Foreign Exchange Fixings

	Mar. 11	Mar. 12
USA	1.8098	1.8017
Britain	4.0150	4.0280
Ireland	3.9520	3.9580
France	1.5020	1.5080
Netherlands	90.885	90.885
Switzerland	104.285	104.400
Denmark	15.07	15.00
France	42.725	42.700
Denmark	32.830	32.005

SDR

حقوق المحب الخاصة

Exchange Rates for the IMF's SDR

	Mar. 10	Mar. 11
US Dollar	1.29104	1.26913
Australian Dollar	1.17946	1.17815
Austrian Schilling	UNAV	16.6917
Belgian Franc	37.8113	37.3908
Canadian Dollar	1.50637	1.50106
Deutsche Mark	2.32968	2.33178
French Franc	5.45271	5.43580
French C.F.	90.890	90.814
Italian Lira	1082.54	NA
Japanese Yen	300.049	319.576
Dutch Guilder	2.55467	2.56086
Norwegian Krone	6.46036	6.45467
Pound Sterling	0.562021	0.560891
Saudi Arabian Riyal	4.20523	4.20925
Sri Lankan Rupee	87.1994	87.2781
Spanish Peseta	5.52391	5.52831
Swedish Kroner	6.72763	6.74532
Swiss Franc	32.2760	32.2283
Ecu	16.2170	16.2170
Indonesian Rupiah	812.064	812.064
Kenya Shilling	0.35528	0.355413
Malaysian Ringgit	2.85383	2.84600
Singapore Dollar	2.81834	2.83351
South African Rand	1.04335	1.04181
Sierra Leone	3.25038	3.25038
U.A.E. Dirham	4.82978	4.82204
Venezuelan Bolivar	5.54179	5.53399

THE ECU

الدولار

Exchange Rates for the ECU
Official Brussels Fixing

	March 12
FB/Lux Con	40.6490
Deutsche Mark	2.50110
Dutch Guilder	2.75229
Pound Sterling	6.51080
French Franc	7.81482
French C.F.	5.85903
Italian Lira	1195.22
Japanese Yen	6.79238
US Dollar	1.29365
Swiss Franc	2.39565
Belgian Franc	83.0535
Swedish Krona	5.93327
Norwegian Krone	6.92181
Canadian Dollar	67.8263
Portuguese Escudo	171.8880
Austrian Schilling	16.6589
Finnish Markka	5.25043
Japanese Yen	343.324
Greek Drachma	55.4045

GOLD

الذهب

Closing Gold Prices
(in US Dollars per troy ounces)

Cryptonix	8	134	Hardmax	1.25	1.34
Indust.	18%	18%	Hooker	1.11	1.10
Steel	27	27%	Jennings Industries	0.98	0.95
Tobacco	44%	44%	Kathleen	5.90	(NT)
Technologies	16%	17	Land Lease	3.40	3.40
Zero Err.			Magefan	(NT)	3.40

[illegible]

COMMODITIES		اسعار السلع والمعادن	
London Commodity and Metal Exchange Closing Prices		كوكا	
Pounds Sterling per metric ton (except Silver)		COCOA	Mar. 11 Closing Mar. 12 Closing
ALUMINIUM	الuminium		£ per tonne
Mar. 12 Closing	Mar. 11 Closing	COCOA	Mar. 11 Closing Mar. 12 Closing
£ per tonne	£ per tonne		£ per tonne
Start 198-450	198-400	March 1374-1372 1379-1373	
		May 1409-1407 1413-1411	
		July 1423-1422 1433-1432	
		September 1446-1443 1451-1448	
		December 1480-1483 1490-1488	
		March 1515-1510 1520-1510	
		May 1520-1520 1545-1530	
		Total sales: 696 lots of 10 tonnes.	
		ROBUSTA COFFEE	بن

[illegible]

Three months	833-834	812-813	March	1614-1615	1623-1624	1631
Sales	11,950 tons	15,500 tons	May	1845-1846	1853-1854	1860
			July	1672-1673	1680-1681	1688-1689
			September	1705-1706	1713-1714	1720-1721
			November	1705-1706	1708-1709	1712-1713
			January	1674-1675	1682-1683	1689-1690
			March	1686-1687	1693-1694	1700-1701

COPPER

Wholesale

Cash	1079-1080	1043-1043.5
Three months	1079-1080	1052-1052.5

Sales

March	1614-1615	1623-1624	1631
May	1845-1846	1853-1854	1860
July	1672-1673	1680-1681	1688-1689
September	1705-1706	1713-1714	1720-1721
November	1705-1706	1708-1709	1712-1713
January	1674-1675	1682-1683	1689-1690
March	1686-1687	1693-1694	1700-1701

£ per tonne

Sales: 5,486 tons of 5 tonnes.

100 COPPE **تسجل معادن النحاس**

[illegible]

Catrols			
Cash	1049-1049	1005-1006	
Three months	1071-1072	1031-1033	
Sales	550 tons	750 tons	
Market	firm		

FEED		مغذيات
1 ton		
Cash	490-495	
Three months	498-500	
Sales	5,150 tons	33,150 tons
Market	order	

NICKEL		نكل
1 ton		
Cash	536-570	
Three months	548-550	
Sales	5,150 tons	33,150 tons
Market	order	

RUBBER		مطاط
	Pence per kilo	
May	68.20-69.50	70.55-72.10
June	68.80-69.80	71.20-72.80
July	69.00-69.80	71.00-71.90
Aug-Sept.	72.85-72.85	75.25-75.25
Oct.	76.00-76.00	78.50-78.50

to	352.50	362.00	Kansai E. Power	821	830
to	335.10	339.00	Kawasaki Steel	125	127
Parsons	221.50	221.00	Kobe	346	350
to	227.50	227.00	Kubota	357	357
Paris Lafayette	177.10	165.00	Kumohatsu Elec.	555	670
to	254.00	250.50	Kumohatsu Electric	557	557
Perth	115.00	119.10	Kyushu Electric	185	190
to	115.00	130.00	Kyushu Hy. Ind.	172	172
to	55.00	52.30	Mitsui Co.	346	347
to	238.30	239.00	Mitsui Electric	371	377
to	1,441	1,459	Nippon Electric	371	377
to	201.50	201.10	Nippon Oil	2,150	2,150
to	651.00	655.00	Nippon Oil	112	125
to	64.90	63.70	Onoda Motor	1,730	1,750
to	50.00	50.50	Osaka	576	576
to	74.92	74.00	Placer	567	575
to	510.00	513.00	Shimadzu	803	804
to	76.25	76.25	Sanyo Electric	1,547	1,550
to	427.00	429.00	Sanyo Electric	134	132
to	49.00	48.00	Taiyoda	475	480
to	36.40	36.10	Tokyo Marine Fire	572	575
to	199.00	200.00	Tokyo Ind.	210	210
to	102.00	102.00	Tokyo Ind.	186	185
to	269.00	269.00	Toto	378	378
to	271.00	270.10	Toyo Kogyo	378	379
to	246.00	246.10	Toyota	378	379
to	231.50	230.00			

SILVER فضة		
E per tonne		
Spot	3030-3040	2995-3000
Three months	3155-3160	3100-3110
Sales	158 tons	558 tons
Market steady		
RAW SUGAR سكر خام		
Sugar Ref. £ per long ton		
Comm. Contn.		
March	210.00-223.00	215.00-210.00
April-May	224.00-221.00	228.00-228.00
August	235.75-235.00	240.00-239.50
October	244.05-244.00	251.00-250.00
Futures volume 10,776 lots of 50 tonnes each		
Tone: Irregular		
WOOL صوف		
E per tonne		
Standard		
Cash	7650-7955	7745-7750
Three months	7940-7950	7755-7880
Sales	1,900 tons	595 tons
Market steady		
High Grade		
Cash	7650-7955	7745-7750
October (Grassy Wool) (NT) (NT)		
December	(NT)	(NT)
March	(NT)	(NT)
May	(NT)	(NT)
July	(NT)	(NT)
October	(NT)	(NT)

	229.00	230.00			
Temps	112.80	113.80			
	462.20	486.20			
	204.50	207.50			
(Cite. Fw)	190.00	190.50			
Route a Roubaix	482.00	460.00			
Le Poutreux	126.00	126.00			
Wattin-LCLAF	253.00	253.00			
	229.00	229.00			
nm	132.00	132.00			
Gobain	124.70	124.80			
Roule-Bouchon	151.00	128.00			

	Closing Mar. 11	Closing Mar. 12
Alumines		
Bank Lait	1246	1270
BOV (Bovary)	9040	9040
Bovine	1615	1600
Bovine	2605	2620
Chien (Chien)	1075	1070
Che Gorg (Gorg-17g)	865	865
Columbus	680	680
Credit Suisse	2220	2220

Three months ...	7545-7550	7755-7800	March ...	(NT)	(NT)
...Zinc		NI tons	...Due to inactive trading		
Market idle			there were nil lots traded		
ZINC					
<div> <div>زئك</div> <div> <p>March 12</p> <p>Liverpool spot cotton and shipment prices in U.S. cents per pound (previous levels in brackets) as supplied by a leading trading company.</p> <p>Major shipping origins Friday included:</p> <p>U.S. ... 1,215 tons</p> </div> </div>					
COTTON					
<div> <div>قطن</div> <div> <p>U.S. ... 1,215 tons</p> </div> </div>					
<div> <div>قطن</div> <div> <p>U.S. ... 1,215 tons</p> </div> </div>					

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World

Mar. 11	Mar. 15	DN 4
115.6	115.1	

U.S. California (1 1/4 inch strict middling).
Mar-Apr 95.75 offered (95.50).
U.S. California (1 1/4 inch strict middling).
Mar-Apr 98.50 offered (103.50).
Soviet (1 1/16 inch strict middling).
Mar-Apr 95.00 offered (100.00).
Egypt Giza 96 FG, 134.15 offered (UNCH).
Sudan Barakat (1 1/8 inch).
Mar-Apr No. 35, 125.75 offered (UNCH).
Mar-Apr No. 35, 115.75 offered (UNCH).
Mar-Apr No. C68, unquoted offered (105.19).
Paraguay (1 3/32 inch).
Mar-Apr 94.00 (95.00).

Hel...	47.10	48.70	Suzar (Non-voting) ..	362	365
...	113.50	114.00	Swiss Bank Corp.	362	365
...	8000	8080	Swiss Re-In (Br)	5620	5700
...	690.00	690.00	Union Bank ..	3400	3495
...	761.00	732.00	Vollbank ..	1830	1830
...	38.00	39.50	Winterthur Acc (Br)	2370 Br	2385
...	148.00	148.10	Yaroslavl (Br)	13300	13400
...	340.00	350.00			
...	36.10	34.70			
...	610.00	604.00			
...	26.65	26.80			
...	232.00	227.00			

SINGAPORE	
Closing	Closing
Mar. 12	Mar. 11
Price Index	5.08
...	4.24
...	4.24
...	0.514
...	0.52

at = Ex alt; St = Ex surp; lease; and = Ex dividend; and = Ex rights; (NT) = Not Traded; SUSP = Suspended; Mar. 11 = Unavailable.

BONDS
 Kuwait Bond Market and recent Kuwaiti Dirr Bond Issues updated when available

NOTES
 STOCKS

Europe	104.9	105.2	DN 5.0	Mexico (1/18/81 credit bidding)	
U.S. (1)	119.0	117.6	DN 4.5	Mar-Apr 19.00 offered (95.0)	
JAPAN	155.4	155.1	DN 4.4	Columbia (1/24/81 credit bidding)	
U.K.	244.0	242.6	DN 4.1	Columbia (1/24/81 credit bidding)	
Canada (2)	187.4	187.4	DN 5.9	Mar-Apr 95.00 offered (97.50)	
France	92.8	92.8	DN 5.8		
Italy	115.9	121.0	DN 5.9		
Spain	105.7	114.9	DN 10.5		
U.S. (2)	51.8	51.8	DN 1.0		
U.S. (3)	20.9	20.9	DN 1.0		
U.S. (4)	85.3	84.2	DN 3.8		
U.S. (5)	80.4	81.1	DN 3.8		
U.S. (6)	107.7	101.9	DN 4.8		
U.S. (7)	105.7	104.2	DN 1.5		
U.S. (8)	221.4	228.1	DN 11.6		
U.S. (9)	112.6	112.7	DN 2.3		
U.S. (10)	132.4	133.2	DN 0.7		

SOYBEAN

Spot	230.00	230.00
Feb-March	232.00	232.00
April-May	237.00	237.00
June-July	242.00	242.00
August-Sept	232.00	232.00

(1) NYSE (2) TSE

Index converted to 1 Jan 1970 Base

Source: New York Times

B.C.

CAN YOU DECLAW MY CAT?
I CAN UNDER ONE CONDITION!
WHAT'S THAT?
YOU GET A DENTIST TO PULL HIS TEETH FIRST.

SMALL SOCIETY

"RUSSIANS COMPLETE TAKEOVER OF AFGHANISTAN."
HOO-BOY! ANOTHER COUNTRY WHERE THEY'VE TAKEN THE POLITICS OUT OF POLITICS—

BLONDIE

I'M SELLING SPIC 'N SPAN SHOE POLISH
HOW COME YOU DON'T USE IT ON YOUR SHOES?
TO MAKE A POINT, SIR
IF YOU DON'T USE THIS POLISH, YOU COULD TURN INTO A SLOB LIKE ME!

BEETLE BAILEY

PARN! MY FINGERS KEEP HITTING THE WRONG KEYS!
WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO USE A PEN?
NOPE

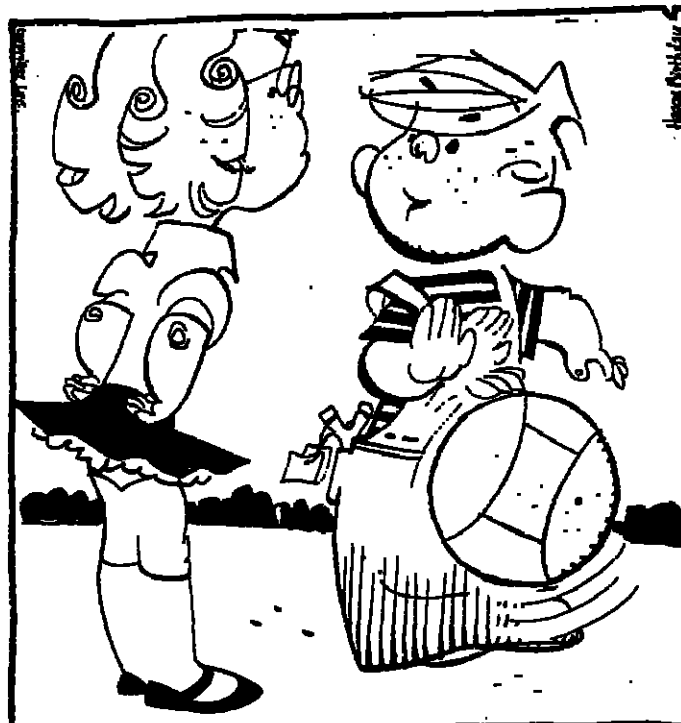
HAGAR

IT SAYS "WELCOME TO THE GYPSY FOREST"
"FOREST?"
WELL, YOU KNOW HOW GYPSIES EXAGGERATE

WIZARD

WHERE DO WE STAND WITH THE MAYOR OF THIS NEXT TOWN?
HE'S A STaunch SUPPORTER, SIRE
THAT'S WONDERFUL!
NOT REALLY...
BILLY BOB STANCH JUST THREW HIS HAT IN THE RING

DENNIS THE MENACE



"SURE, I WAS HOLDIN' HANDS WITH GINA... WHEN SHE GETS MAD, YOU BETTER BE HOLDIN' HER HANDS!"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword

by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1. Store

2. Fairy-tale

3. Military plane

4. Be a wage slave

5. Characteristic

6. Brewing device

7. Wahine's maiden

8. Lilies, for one

9. Cursed, as a dog

10. Hindu symbol

11. Marine bird

12. Cliche

13. Germanic deity

14. Buffalo Bill

15. Like the "road to love"

16. Red-eyed carp

17. Zulu's follower

18. Deprived of

19. Cuming

20. Tund the lawn

21. English title

22. Nervous laugh

23. Russian river

24. Display superior horsemanship

25. Cuddle up

26. Hoffman film

27. Get lost

28. "The Turn of the Screw"

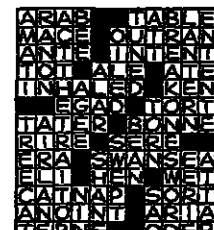
29. Less common

30. Do business

31. Boundary

32. Cap

33. Be supine



Saturday's Answer

8 Region

9 Inlet

10 Cuddle up

11 Hoffman film

12 Get lost

13 "The Turn of the Screw"

14 Less common

15 Do business

16 Boundary

17 Cap

18 Be supine

19 Display superior horsemanship

20 Cuddle up

21 Hoffman film

22 Get lost

23 "The Turn of the Screw"

24 Less common

25 Do business

26 Boundary

27 Cap

28 Be supine

29 Display superior horsemanship

30 Cuddle up

31 Hoffman film

32 Get lost

33 "The Turn of the Screw"

34 Less common

35 Do business

36 Boundary

37 Cap

38 Be supine

39 Display superior horsemanship

40 Cuddle up

41 Hoffman film

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44 Less common

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51 Hoffman film

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61 Hoffman film

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286 Boundary

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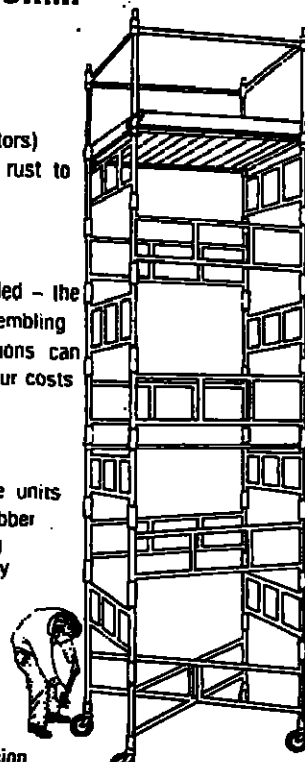
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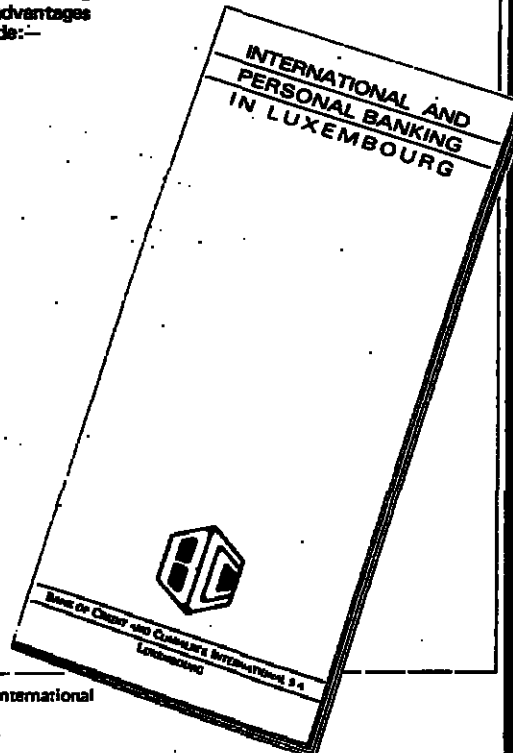
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VOY. R-489

WITH GEN. CARGO

ON 15.3.80 (ETD 16.3.80)

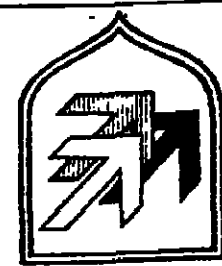
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PAGE 12

International

الأحد ٢٩ ربيع الثاني ١٤٠٠ هـ

Carter tells reporters

Iran broke pledge

WASHINGTON, March 15 (AP) — President Jimmy Carter has accused Iranian authorities of breaking commitments regarding the American hostages. He said he was bitterly disappointed but hoped Iran's parliamentary elections might soon break the four-month stalemate.

"We have done everything we could during the last four months to honor the principles of our nation and to protect those hostages," Carter said at a news conference Friday night. "I don't know when they will be released," he said.

For a possible glimmer of hope, Carter pointed to the current elections for a new parliament in Iran. He said the elections might produce a stable government.

But Carter said it was clear that President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr is incapable of carrying out the commitments he had made.

Carter did not explain what commitments he was accusing the authorities in Tehran of breaking. Presumably, they related to the United Nations fact-finding panel which returned this week from Tehran without seeing the estimated 50 Americans held hostage since last Nov. 4.

"The past few days," Carter said, "have been characterized by bitter disappointments."

Meanwhile, Iranians concluded the first of two rounds of balloting for the parliament that Ayatollah Khomeini has said will decide the fate of the hostages.

Khomeini cast his "secret vote" at his Tehran residence, and militants holding the hostages voted inside the U.S. embassy compound.

The Interior Ministry, which supervises the polling, announced that 100 people had been arrested in connection with "certain irregularities" at some polling stations in Tehran.

A ministry statement carried by the official Pars news agency said the irregularities "consisted of incidents...where lists of certain candidates were given to illiterate people at mosques with instructions to vote only for them, and instances where people had been appointed by local committees to fill in the ballot slips for the illiterate."

Tehran Radio said that voting was heavy, especially in the provinces, and that polls remained open past the 6 p.m. deadline to accommodate the crush of voters.

As polls opened at 8 a.m. in Tehran, a bomb exploded at the downtown offices of the *Daily Bannad* newspaper. Right-wing extremists claimed responsibility for the blast, which caused heavy damage but no injuries. A number of radical organizations have previously said the newspaper was "imperialist and pro-Western."

Bani-Sadr, elected president in January, toured working class districts in south Tehran

and warned that those violating the election law would be punished.

Khomeini, 79, said two weeks ago that the 270-member Majlis, or parliament, would decide if and when to free the hostages. The second round of balloting is scheduled for April 4, and the Majlis is not expected to take up the hostage issue until May.

The first round of balloting will narrow the field of 3,300 candidates. If no one candidate for each seat wins an absolute majority, the two leaders will be on the April ballot. The two-stage system was chosen by the governing Revolutionary Council, dominated by conservative Muslim clergymen.

Bani-Sadr and others have criticized the two-stage system, saying it will deny representation to sizable segments of the population.

The Revolutionary Council also postponed voting in Sanandaj, capital of the rebellious Kurdistan province in northwest Iran, and other Kurdish cities where rebels have been forcibly resisting the central government's efforts to assert authority.

Rebel spokesmen claimed 15 government soldiers and two guerrillas were killed in the fighting near the Kurdish town of Kamyaran. State radio, which reported the clash Thursday, did not mention any new fighting Friday.

At United Nations Headquarters in New York, the five members of a U.N. investigating commission met privately with Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim for two hours to discuss their recent mission to Iran.

The panel, which collected evidence of alleged crimes by the former Shah, ended its 17-day stay in Tehran Monday after Khomeini blocked efforts to question all the hostages. Panel members have said they will not publicize their findings on the Shah until they see all the hostages.

The Shah and his wife, Farah, flew from their home-in-exile on Panama's Contadora Island to Panama City on Friday and the former monarch was admitted to the private Paililla Clinic for treatment of an enlarged spleen. Doctors have said the spleen may be removed, but the hospital administrator, Rodrigo Moreno said no operation would be performed before Saturday morning at the earliest.

The Shah and some members of his family have been staying at Contadora Island off Panama's Pacific coast since Dec. 15 following removal of his gallbladder and treatment for lymphatic cancer in New York City late last year. Doctors say the cancer may have spread to the spleen.

It was the Shah's arrival in New York in October that triggered the takeover of the U.S. embassy. Khomeini and the militants are demanding the Shah be extradited to stand trial for alleged mass murder and corruption.

By Colombian government

Guerrilla demands rejected

BOGOTA, March 15 (R) — The Colombian government has rejected all the demands made by leftist guerrillas holding about 30 hostages, including 12 ambassadors, in the Dominican Republic's embassy in Bogota, a diplomatic source has said.

He said Friday the guerrillas were informed of the government's decision during the fifth round of negotiations between two Colombian foreign ministry officials and a woman guerrilla representative.

The extremists, members of the M-19 urban guerrilla group, had asked for a ransom of \$10 million and the release of 70 prisoners. They had originally sought a \$50 million ransom and the release of 311 prisoners.

But the source added that President Julio Turbay Ayala's government was prepared to let outside governments or private firms negotiate directly with the guerrillas for the hostages' release.

Cuban ambassador to Colombia Fernando Ravelo Friday met Turbay and said later he had presented a Cuban government formula for a solution to the crisis. He said that the president was receptive to the plan but gave no other details.

The hostages, surprised at a reception in the embassy on Feb. 27, include the envoys of the Dominican Republic, the United States, Brazil, the Vatican, Egypt, Israel, Mexico, Haiti, Switzerland, Venezuela, Uruguay and Guatemala and the charges d'affaires of Paraguay and Bolivia.

The guerrillas had handed over a partial list of the prisoners they wanted released but the Colombian government's position was that not a single one would be freed nor would any money be handed over, the source said.

But the government had offered to let the guerrillas leave the country with their hostages, guaranteeing them safe passage to the airport, he said.

The authorities have expressed their willingness to hold further talks and Thursday night the foreign minister told reporters: "The negotiations are still open."

The diplomatic source said the Colombian government maintained that the people whose release was demanded by the guerrillas were not political prisoners but those condemned for crimes such as murder and kidnapping.



President Turbay casts his ballot in the recent Colombian elections.



"MINISTER OF PEACE": Danish Minister of Defense Poul Seegard watches doves fly out his office window at Christiansburg Castle. Representatives of an organization calling itself "Women for Peace" called on him, proclaimed him dismissed, and re-titled him "Minister of Peace." Then they released the doves. The organization is protesting increased armaments spending in Denmark.

Judge delays arrest warrants

Iranians desert courthouse

MONROE, Louisiana March 15 (AP) — A judge has refused to dismiss charges against 48 Iranians who failed to appear for trial in connection with an anti-Shah demonstration, but said he would not press for their arrest until appeals are finished.

City Judge Larry Lolley issued arrest warrants Friday for the Iranians when they did not show up for their trial. He set bond at \$350 for each and then pulled back the orders so defense lawyers could go to the state Supreme Court.

In a news conference after the day's proceedings, Lolley said he had been contacted by the U.S. State Department about the case, but he would not say when or what was said.

The Iranians had stood chanting outside the courthouse as court opened early Friday, but when the cases were called one by one, the defendants had disappeared.

The Iranians were arrested and jailed March 6 after shouts and threats forced officials at northeast Louisiana University to stop a speech by Fereydoon Hoveyda, Iranian ambassador to the United Nations under the Shah. All were charged with trespassing and more than 30 of them, who refused to give their names, were also charged with resisting a police officer.

They immediately went on a hunger strike, which lasted until they were released from

jail. Four posted bond during the week, and on Thursday a \$2,200 cashier's check for bond arrived in the mail, signed anonymously by "J.W. Doe."

The students claim they were jailed as political retribution for the holding of the 50 American hostages at the U.S. embassy in Iran.

The courthouse under an order issued earlier in the day by Lolley, who cited the unusual nature of the proceeding. The order allowed only one defendant inside at a time and did not allow any spectators other than reporters and officials of the trial.

A crowd of Iranians had been waiting outside the courthouse, but as the defendants were called, the Iranians drifted away.

Meanwhile, the Iranian embassy in Washington issued a statement in response to inquiries from the *Monroe News-Star* and *Morning World*.

"We strongly condemn all conspiratorial and prejudicial provocation against Iranians in this country and distractions against the Islamic revolutionaries in Iran," the statement said.

"We demand that the authority clearly identify and prosecute those responsible for harming Iranians and thus breeding hostility."

Soccer results

LONDON, March 15 (R) — Results of British soccer matches played Saturday.

English Football League Cup Final		
Notttingham Forest	0	Wolverhampton 1
English League		
Division One		
Bolton	1	Darby 2
Brighton	0	Manchester United 0
Bristol City	1	Liverpool 3
Cardiff	1	Coventry 1
Derby	0	Arsenal 3
Sheff Wed	2	Aston Villa 0
Sheff Utd	2	Norwich 1
Tottenham	0	Crystal Palace 0
Division Two		
Birmingham	2	Preston 2
Charlton	0	Sunderland 4
Chelsea	2	Burnley 1
Leicester	2	Shrewsbury 0
Millwall	0	West Ham 0
Nottingham	0	Bristol Rovers 0
Sheff Utd	1	Fulham 0
Division Three		
Barnley	1	Bromford 0
Blackpool	1	Exeter 0
Cardiff	2	Millwall 0
Sheff Wed	1	Sheff Wednesday 0
Sheff Utd	1	Chester 0
Sheff Utd	1	Rotherham 0
Division Four		
Bradford City	2	Aldershot 0
Doncaster	1	Portsmouth 1
Doncaster	0	Southend 0
Huddersfield	0	Peterborough 0
Lincoln	3	Port Vale 0

Scottish League Premier Division		
Aberdeen	2	Dundee United 1
Dundee	3	Hibernian 0
Kilmarnock	1	Celtic 1
Morton	2	St. Mirren 1
Rangers	0	Partick Thistle 0
Division One		
Airdrieonians	1	Clydebank 0
Arbroath	1	Stirling 2
Barnhill	3	Dunfermline 1
Chick	1	St. Johnstone 1
Dunfermline	0	Ayr 0
Motherwell	4	Hamilton 0
Ruth	0	Hare 0
Division Two		
Albion	1	Albion 1
Greenock	0	Greenock 1
Queen of the South	3	Queen of the South 2
Queen of the South	0	Queen of the South 1
Queen of the South	1	Queen of the South 1
Alliance Premier League		
Southend	5	Yeovil 0
Walsley	0	Grimsby 0
Southern League Midland Division		
Bedworth	3	Truro 0
King's Lynn	0	Weymouth 1
Millon Keynes	1	Truro 2
Midland	4	Vauxhall 1
Southend	1	Altrincham 1
Southern League Southern Division		
Canterbury	2	Aylesbury 0
Dorchester	3	Crawley 0
Margate	1	Bognor Regis 0

Apartheid defenders organizing

JOHANNESBURG, March 15 (R) — Former information minister Dr. Connie Mulder forecasts a new political realignment in South Africa with ex-premier John Vorster joining him to fight any relaxation of apartheid policies.

In a review published Saturday in the *Johannesburg Star*, Mulder, sacked in disgrace after the information department's "slush funds" scandal, said he might head a coalition with Vorster and controversial right-wing cabinet Minister Andries Treurnicht.

Treurnicht has been at the center of a race policy row which threatened to split the ruling National party early this week. He was publicly rebuked by Prime Minister Pieter Botha for speaking against the admission of colored (mixed race) teams to an all-white schoolboy rugby meet.

Mulder told the newspaper he had not been in contact with Vorster but said the time had come when Nationalists, including the former prime minister and Treurnicht, had found they could no longer keep quiet.

"The National party is already, in essence, divided," he said. "It is just a matter of time before two new ranks, a left and a right, form."

Vorster, who retired as president last year, stunned political circles this week when he made an attack on Botha's "adapt or die" stance over apartheid. Vorster said apartheid was the only viable policy for the country.

Botha has several times warned that white-ruled South Africa must change its race policies or face eventual eclipse. He has advocated a new examination of the laws outlawing mixed marriages and sex across the color line, previously two basic tenets of national party policy.

Vorster broke an unwritten understanding that former presidents should remain aloof from politics when, in a speech last Thursday, he bitterly attacked attempts to change the apartheid laws.

Mulder, defeated in the leadership race by Botha after Vorster's resignation as prime minister, has also rejected the premier's policy of change.

Tito's chances remain poor, doctors report

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia March 15 (AP) — President Josip Broz Tito's doctors said Saturday there had been no increase in his chances of survival.

The 87-year-old Yugoslav leader's general condition, they said, remained very grave and "without major changes as against yesterday."

Top Yugoslav officials were continuously at Tito's hospital; the national news agency said.

Informed sources said Tito, despite newly reported fever and persistent pneumonia, had been conscious and spoken with visitors as late as Friday.

"He was very bad yesterday and today it appears he is no better," said press spokesman Tone Vahen after the reading of the daily bulletin from the presidential doctors.

The advisory came on Tito's 64th straight day in a closely guarded action of Ljubljana's Clinical Center, a large hospital complex near the Ljubljana River.

Doctors said they were continuing intensive treatment of Yugoslavia's leader, but gave no details about measures being applied.

Tito's doctors confirmed one day before that they had not been able to eliminate any of the complications threatening his life.

Tito developed heart and kidney weakness in early February, suddenly ending what had seemed to be a quick recovery from the Jan. 20 amputation of his left leg.

The leg had been removed because of a blood circulation problem which had threatened him with fatal gangrene poisoning.

Doctors disclosed Feb. 22 that they had been keeping Tito alive with the help of an artificial kidney machine, then conceded March 8 that his kidneys had stopped working entirely.

They reported the development of pneumonia on Feb. 23 and four days later said Tito was suffering from an undescribed bleeding problem as well.

Doctors said Friday the pneumonia had continued in spite of intensive treatment and that Tito had developed a high fever.

His condition, they said, had grown very grave, and previously mentioned disorders in functions of other organs continue to be present.

Although Tito's mental state has not been officially described since Feb. 20, sources in Belgrade said he remained at least partially conscious.

The national news agency Tanjug said top government and party leaders had been at the hospital throughout his illness on a rotating basis.

Good Morning

By Jibad Khazen

Employ the best analysts and the greatest of computers. Get all your facts right — all of them — and let them be fed into said gadget. Give it time to mull things over. Then get your answer. And you know what? It doesn't work. Life isn't like that. You might as well, for all of the good your efforts have done you, have looked into the entrails of a (humanely, of course) killed bird, to see whether the liver is to the left or right of the spleen (or whatever they do when they look into the entrails of a bird to tell the future.)

These thoughts came to mind as I considered the case of several young men from Kuwait who, after watching the relevant films and making detailed studies of real life cases, then making their careful plans, timing all moves in advance, assigning tasks, etc., started their projected bank holdup. And what happens? The silly bank officials, not being used to such things, simply would not hold up their hands and deliver the loot. (A tricky maneuver that, but perfected, I am told, by all banking officials in the United States. Indeed, if one can believe the reports, everyone has to undergo training courses until the trick is fully mastered.)

Not content with simply standing there and staring at the interlopers, the bank employees soon started to deliver rather wounding remarks, concerning certain young men ("not a mile from here," as they snidely said) going around wasting valuable banking time with toy pistols and home-made masks. The would-be bandits, it appeared, and after an embarrassed pause, tried earnestly to convince the employees that this was serious, that gunpowder and swordplay were imminent, at which the employees fell about laughing (one, it was reported, made a passable Cagney imitation in Arabic).

The bandits took severe exception, and passed some very rude remarks, which the employees answered in kind (the manager in the background, the reports say, tutting at the level of language the young use nowadays) — and soon push came to shove and a free-for-all developed. The police then came and took the bandits away, while those hurt in the melee were taken to hospital.

One imagines the gloomy post mortem held in the police cells afterwards; the blame laid squarely on the bank and its employees for so dismally failing to recognize a serious, meticulously planned and executed hold up when it came their way. One imagines the resigned, "Ah, back to the drawing board," on the part of the gang leaders.

Translated from Ashraf Al Awwad

World population hits 4.5 billion

WASHINGTON, March 15 (AP) — As of Thursday afternoon, the world's population has passed 4.5 billion, according to the Environmental Fund which keeps Washingtonians informed by a downtown electric sign that adds two and a half babies to its total every second.

The 4.5 billion mark was passed at 2 P.M. Eastern Standard Time.

Figures are based on estimates from the U.N. statistics and the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Justin Blackwelder, director of the fund, estimates that the 5 billion mark will be reached in 1985 or 1986 — if the good weather and crops of recent years continue. "I don't think we'll ever see 6 billion," he said in a telephone interview. "The reason will be starvation. Unfortunately, only disaster is likely to stop it — like three consecutive years of bad crop weather."

He said that while the world's food production has increased in recent years, population has been increasing about as fast — food per person has not increased.

The Environmental Fund works to focus public attention on the role of increasing population in world problems.

Zia scraps reshuffle

ISLAMABAD, March 15 (R) — Pakistan's military ruler Zia-ul-Haq said Saturday he had given up plans to form a new cabinet this month, but he would announce other changes in a few days.

Zia, who said last Monday he was trying to reshuffle his government, told reporters that now it does not seem possible.

He gave no indication of the difficulties he had encountered and said it would be premature to specify the changes he had in mind.

Zia said he was considering how to fill what he termed "the present political vacuum which exists in Pakistan according to some thinkers."

The president, who seized power in a bloodless coup in July 1977, banned all political parties last October and indefinitely postponed general elections due to have been held in November.

He conferred with several political leaders earlier this month, but he said Saturday that the government could not be civilian so long as he was head of state.

مكتبة الأصغر



SHIPPING

Five years of consolidation seen

Plan will gild the lily of Saudi ports

By Nigel Harvey

RIYADH — The Saudi Ports Authority has coped with an expansion of activity that has seen imports more than double over the past three years. Greatly expanded berth capacity and modern management techniques did the trick, and the authority is now trying to improve the efficiency of its service, Director-General Muhammad Bakr says.

The overall objectives in the SPA's next five year plan, are to "improve the infrastructure of the ports, to provide further specialized services, and to increase capacity to cope with a projected increase in demand of ten per cent per annum over the next five years."

Ten new berths will be required in the Jeddah region, Bakr says, but they have not been allocated yet. The authority is considering satellite ports north or south of Jeddah. A new or substantially expanded port, however, would be considerably expensive.

The major developments planned for the next few years include computerization, special terminals, considerable expansion at Jizan, improved navigation aids, and new maintenance, repair and training facilities. There will also be comprehensive port regulations and a new maritime code introduced. Bakr confirmed that the multi-door "Saudi box" container will become mandatory, to ease customs inspections.

The Saudi Authority now has an annual budget of SR6 billion with a little less than SR2 billion of it spent on operating costs.

Bakr said the SPA operates on a commercial basis and he reaffirms its intentions to become self-financing. But while the Kingdom generally frowns on subsidies for industry, "we are providing a service," one that is, "outstanding."

Bakr is number two to the SPA's President and member of the Council of Ministers, Dr. Fayez Badr. The Director General helps oversee the day to day operation of the SPA's five ports in Jeddah, Dammam, Jubail, Yanbu and Jizan. Despite his frequent visits to them, control is centered in the Riyadh headquarters.

In his evening in-tray a stack of telexes indicates the work flow, new tonnage dis-

charge figures with demand forecasts, more information on a new standby generator. Dammam has a query about its new computer center, and there are new engineer appointments.

Central monitoring from Riyadh will take a further major step at the end of April when a computerized management information system linking Jeddah and Dammam to Riyadh goes up.

It will handle ship scheduling, berth allocation, port information, and so on with a flexibility to monitor changes. The system's major component is in Jeddah with linked satellites in Dammam and Riyadh.

Siemens of West Germany is installing the first stage of the \$ 20 million system which will cost SR6 million a year to run, while cutting the ports' labor force by 15 per cent. The system will eventually computerize all the ports. The system will later be expanded to include civil engineering works, equipment, spare parts and personnel, according to the Authority.

The computer system, however, is not aimed at centralization of control, Bakr says. One of the SPA's new five year plan objectives is decentralization and to, "strengthen the autonomy of each major port." The central headquarters' role will be reduced to central planning, policy-making, monitoring performance and administering the development program. In the past the smaller ports in particular have been closely controlled by Riyadh.

Computerization is a key element in the drive to increased efficiency. The Kingdom's five major ports last year discharged 24.3 million tons of cargo, as against 10.2 million tons in 1976. At the end of last year they had 98 fully operational berths between them, including special facilities for Ro-Ro cargo and containers, as well as bulk cement and grain terminals with large silo capacities.

With a throughput of 12.5 million tons last year, Jeddah was operating at 85 per cent occupancy, according to the authority. Its 37 berths at year's end (with a further nine under construction) each handled 1,208 tons a day. Dammam and Jubail each also handled over 1,200 tons a berth a day last year, while

Yanbu and Jizan berths handled almost 1,000 tons.

These figures compare, according to the SPA, with the daily productivity of 1,070 tons a berth a day in Antwerp, 698 in Hamburg, and 453 in London. "We can handle double the tonnage we are now so there's no need for more," assistant Director Muhammad Zaheri of Dammam port said late last year after its 38th berth had become operational.

Construction, however, is under way for a further nine berths in Jeddah, eight in Jizan and six at Jubail's commercial harbor.

The Authority aims for an "almost ideal" average berth occupancy of 70 per cent to keep port efficiency high while preventing costly delays for ships. All the ports, except Jeddah and Jizan were well below this level, but the European average, according to the Authority, is only 50 or 55 per cent.

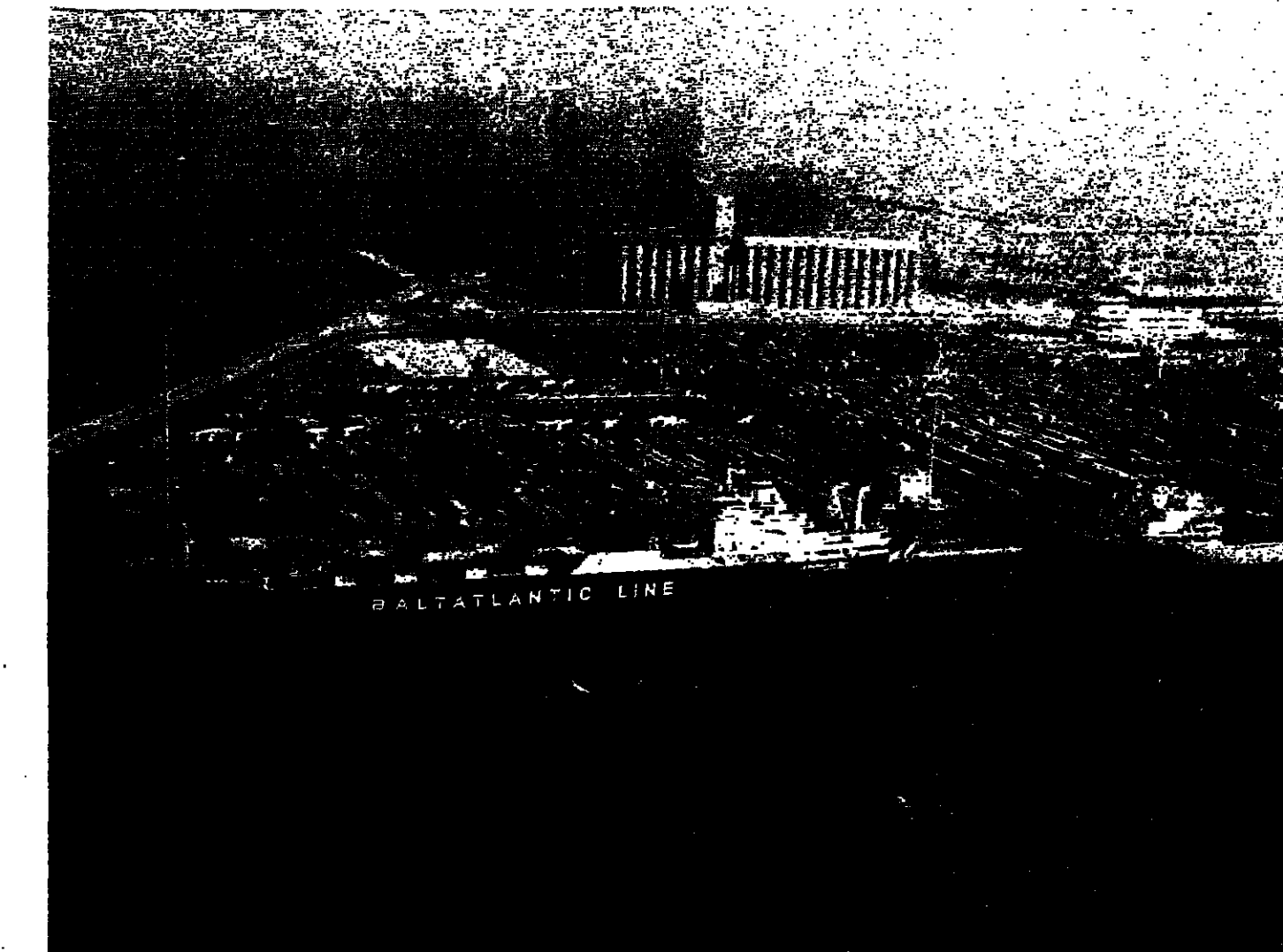
High productivity and particularly fast turnaround in the ports stems, according to the authority, from such measures as: working 24 hours a day seven days a week; requiring that all break bulk cargo be palletized, in units or preloading; encouraging direct delivery to the consignee's transport, and the introduction of more sophisticated but standardized cargo handling equipment.

The major new port development is at Jizan which is being expanded from three to eleven berths, according to Bakr, "because there is demand for the southern area." It will help ease pressure on Jeddah.

The Greek contractor Archirodon will finish constructing the eight berths next year under a SR200 million contract signed last year. The port's designers and consultants are I.H.O. of France. A German contractor last year completed a 50,000 gallon a day desalination plant at the port and a four megawatt power plant was completed this month. But Bakr says more water and power would be needed.

The port handled 1.05 million weight tons of cargo last year as against 0.56 tons in 1977, the bulk of it in cement, followed by foodstuffs and building materials.

Under the next plan it is to receive a special container terminal, as is Yanbu. The other ports all have at least one, Jeddah and Dam-



Dammam container terminal west, with the grain silo in the background.

mam two.

If containerization continues to spread, the authority expects to have to reduce its ideal berth occupancy rate from 70 per cent. It estimates that within the next few years, 70 per cent of general cargo will be containerized, certainly for Jeddah where one third of the general cargo already came in containers last year (496,390 TEUs).

Special cement facilities are also being developed, for the 9.32 million tons, bulk and bagged imported last year. Jeddah has the world's two largest floating cement silos with a daily capacity of 17,500 tons. The authority

encourages private sector establishment of bulk cement facilities, as in Dammam and Jeddah, to relieve it of the investment. Quay-berthed silo vessels linked to permanent shore bagging and bulk loading facilities have proved successful. Jeddah and Dammam also both have grain silos.

Jeddah port, Bakr says, is the largest livestock importer in the world, and the SPA's next plan calls for a new special livestock terminal. Last year it received nearly 2.5 million head of cattle, camels, horses, goats, calves, and particularly sheep weighing 96,000 tons. The other ports imported

another 650,000 head.

The authority has recently introduced a set of regulations for livestock shipment detailing requirements per animal for space, water and so on. They improve on existing international standards dards but most new ships already meet them, Bakr says.

Jeddah is also to receive a special fruit terminal under the Plan. Both will involve separate berths, yards and special facilities for unloading.

Bakr says the authority is further reviewing a draft of the Kingdom's new maritime code

(Continued on page 2)

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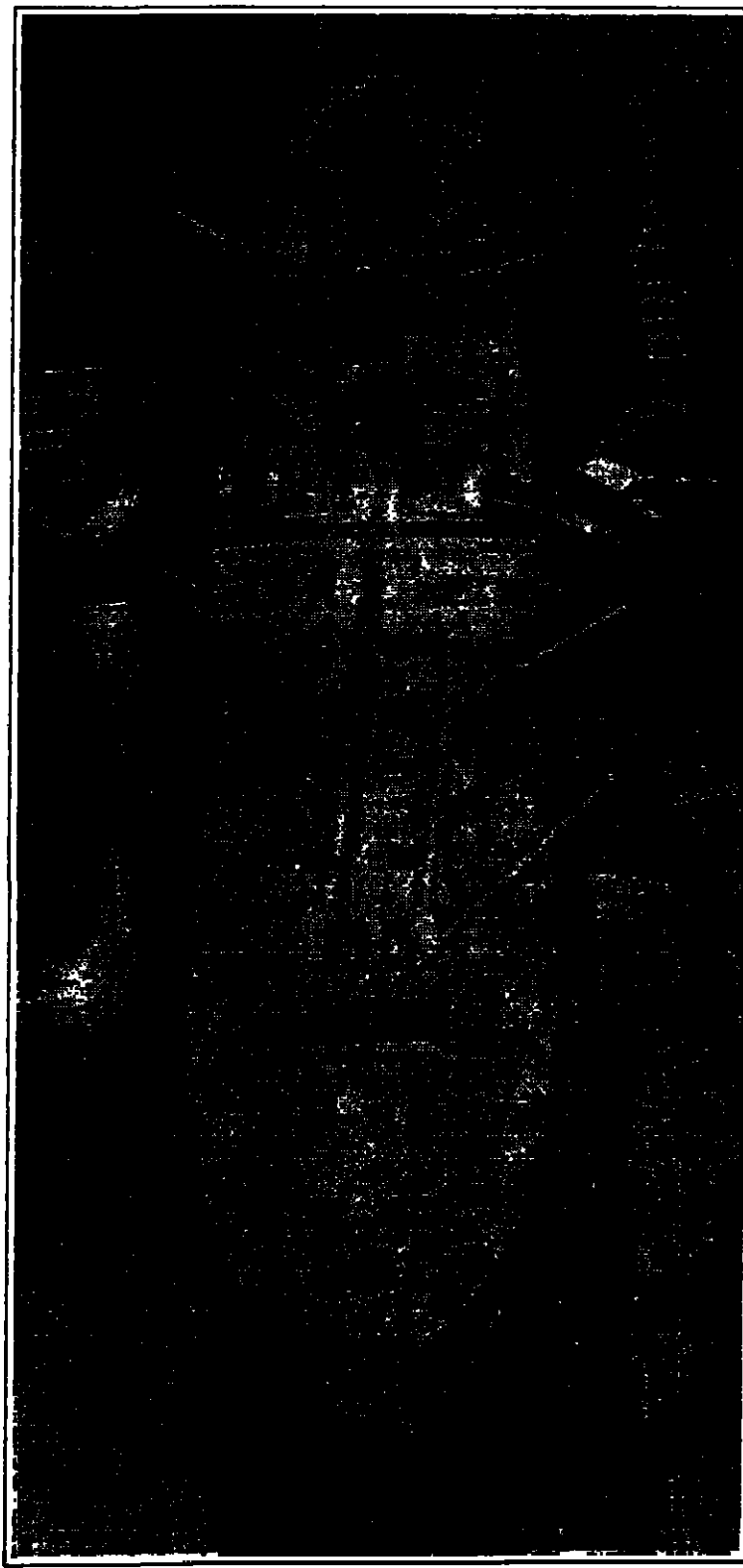
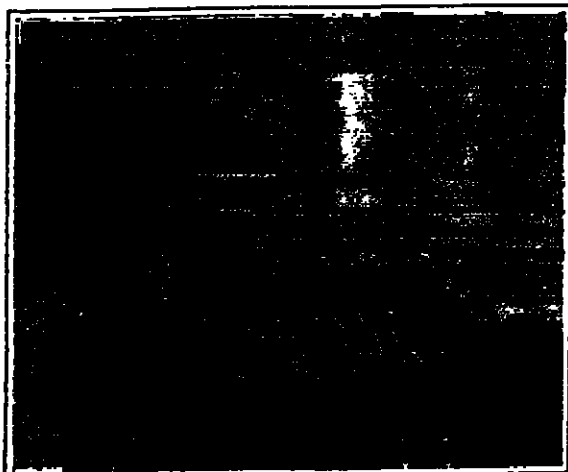
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Jizan, the gateway to the development of the south, with floating cement storage facilities and bagging plants on shore.

Saudi Port Statistics

(These figures refer only to ports under the administration of the Saudi Ports Authority: Jeddah, Dammam, Yanbu, Jizan and Jubail. Source: SPA)

Berths, Capacity and Throughput

	Number of Berths	Capacity (million tons)	Throughput (million tons)
Jeddah	37	12.0	12.5**
Dammam	39	12.7	8.7
Yanbu	9	2.7	1.1
Jizan	3	0.7	1.0
Jubail Commercial	10	3.0	1.0
Total	98	31.1	24.3

* Capacity at 70 per cent occupancy.
** Jeddah operating at 85 per cent occupancy.

Container Handling Capacity (TEUs)

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980*
Jeddah	90,000	227,500	300,000	450,000	560,000
Dammam	9,000	55,000	200,000	380,000	520,000
Jubail	—	—	4,000	85,000	165,000
Yanbu	—	—	16,000	18,000	27,000
Jizan	—	—	—	13,500	21,000
Total	99,000	282,500	520,000	946,500	1,293,000

* Estimated

Making the Kingdom's waters safe

(Continued from page 1)

which will be introduced within the next five years. "It will" he says, "be in line with current international codes in force elsewhere in the world. It will be a Saudi law which will be compatible with international codes."

The Authority has also drawn up a set of rules and regulations which, Bakr says, will be issued this year. They are in four volumes covering: Vessels in port, port operations, port safety, and navigation. Many, Bakr says, have been issued individually before, "but in bits and pieces. This will be a complete set of rules and regulations to refer to."

Under the Plan Dammam is to receive a maintenance complex. It will maintain and repair marine equipment as well as buoys, for which both Jeddah and Dammam will receive extensive buoy yards.

Training centers are also to be established in Jeddah and Dammam, incorporating language teaching but mainly to train Saudis in all aspects of port operations such as cargo documentation, accounts, safety and general management, and operation, maintenance and repair.

All foreign companies working for the SPA, whether in stevedoring, operations, supervision or civil engineering are required to participate in the training.

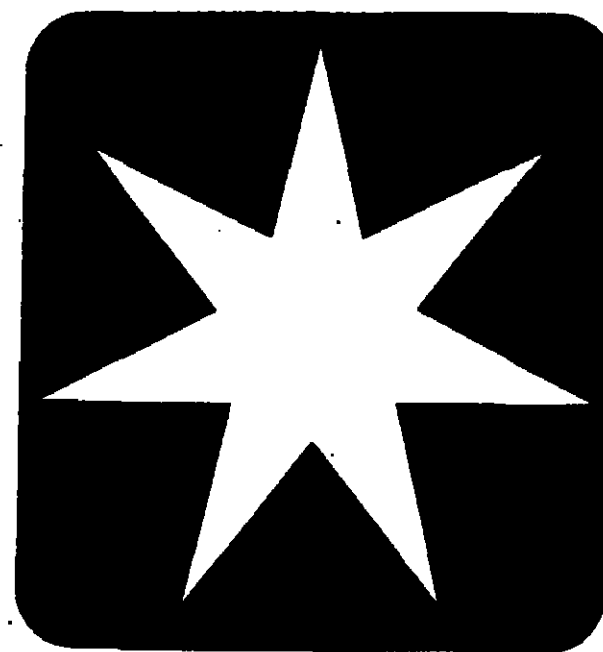
The Authority has commissioned Georeda for a major hydrographic survey of the Kingdom's Red Sea coast, costing \$ 20 million. This will provide ships with new, accurate charts, vital in avoiding the Red Sea's hazardous reefs.

To this end, Bakr says, beacons have established on two reefs. In October the beacon on Mishari reef, 12 miles south of Jeddah, became operational. It is visible 16 miles away. Twenty two miles north of Jeddah on Shib Al-Kabir reef, a similar beacon will be completed in six months. Both have radar.

The beacons Bakr says, fall under, "our active efforts to make our waters safe for navigation and our ports safe". A "tremendous program" will also include further buoys, beacons and radar including a port surveillance radar system to ensure continuous monitoring of craft moving within the Kingdom's port boundaries and approaches.

Two buoy-laying vessels for the Red Sea and the Gulf coast, will be delivered by September.

In, "a tremendous step forward in our program to preserve the environment," Bakr says, the authority has ordered two special incinerator vessels, one for each coast. Arriving in September they will collect both port and shore garbage reducing it to inert matter for dumping in the sea. Each, will also have two, small attendant boats to collect oil spills, although Bakr says this was, "not a major problem" at the moment. The Authority, he said, was leading the drive for a new set of environmental regulations.



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مكتب المبيعات

Taking the strain

Jeddah Port: workhorse of the west

By Timothy Soley

JEDDAH — Jeddah Port, Saudi Arabia's largest, is handling increasing volumes of traffic. The Third Five-Year Plan will involve a continuation and consolidation of its physical expansion.

Muhammad Bakr, the director-general of the Saudi Ports Authority, says that under the Plan, which comes into operation with the new financial year in May, additional land will be reclaimed to the north-east of the present complex. On that will be sited new storage areas, warehouses, work camps and parking areas, "necessary to meet the forecast growth in cargo."

In search of efficiency

Doing it well in Dammam

By Gregory Llewellyn

DAMMAM — There is scarcely one branch of commerce, industry, or science which has not felt the impact of computer technology. Shipping is no exception.

Installed by the West German company Siemens, a computer network which will link Riyadh and the King Abdul Aziz Port of Dammam with the Jeddah Port is about to become operational. The package deal, valued at SR50 million, includes installation, which began eight months ago, equipment costs and two years operation.

The director-general of Dammam Port, Suleiman Muhanna, describes its advantages: "In a nutshell, efficiency. It will provide the right information at the right time."

The host computer, a Siemens 7738, is in Jeddah, where processing will be handled. Dammam and Riyadh, where input and inquiries will originate, are satellite stations equipped with a Siemens 9687 communications computer.

There is a two-fold purpose in the computerization at Dammam: ship reservations will be electronically processed by staff who will assist with booking berths. The new equipment will also provide statistics for performance and trade monitoring.

The next phase of computerization will look after financial control, payroll, book-keeping, stock inventories, and cargo management. A bevy of visual display units will be dispersed throughout the port in an effort to maximize efficiency and minimize manpower needs.

To the casual observer, the King Abdul Aziz Port looks orderly and unencumbered: neatly arrayed containers await collection by consignees who must dispose of their goods within 15 days of arrival. Phalanxes of bright yellow cranes line the quayside, like massive herons; battalions of newly imported Toyota pick-ups are dwarfed by the vast acreage of the port built on land reclaimed from the Gulf. Are there any plans to increase

The sort of growth he is talking about was an increase last year in cargo handled of 26 per cent over the year before, with 13.2 million tons moving through the port. In order to cope, each of the port's berths took an average load of 1,208 tons a day, "a rate among the highest in the world."

During the Third Plan the SPA also intends to build an integrated food and fruit terminal, and to develop the north-western side of the port, next to the planned ship repair yard. That "will provide the facilities needed for efficient port operations which cannot be easily accommodated in other parts of the port, such as the livestock terminal, the car terminal, the buoy yard, the slipway and the barge

port."

The SPA also plans to build a maritime museum, Bakr says.

Bakr is talking about consolidation of past achievements in bringing efficiency to the Kingdom's ports, about a Third Plan that will ensure manpower needs are reduced, that management is standardized and controlled, that operating costs are reduced and that the SPA is put "on a sound financial basis."

As far as Jeddah is concerned, that means spreading the growing load. With the planned works to create more space for operations, Bakr says "satellite ports and under consideration as relief ports for the Jeddah region."

The idea of bringing into service smaller ports beside the giants of Jeddah and Dammam has been floating around for some while. The point of them would simply be to ease the strain on the major ports by taking off a little of the traffic.

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing tried the system, building facilities north of Jeddah at Qadima and near Dammam at Ras Al-Ghar to feed the Jeddah and Dammam rush housing projects. Partly because of the greater efficiency of the main ports and partly because of the poor roads between the ports and the towns, the scheme never caught on.

Until recently rather the opposite of the principle of satellite ports had been happening, with Jeddah acting as the main entry point for goods bound for all the Hejaz. Over the past year Jeddah has opened its doors to significant volumes of traffic, with three new berths coming into operation and cargo handling rising 55 per cent over the volume in 1978; a total of 1,187,390 freight tons, Bakr says.

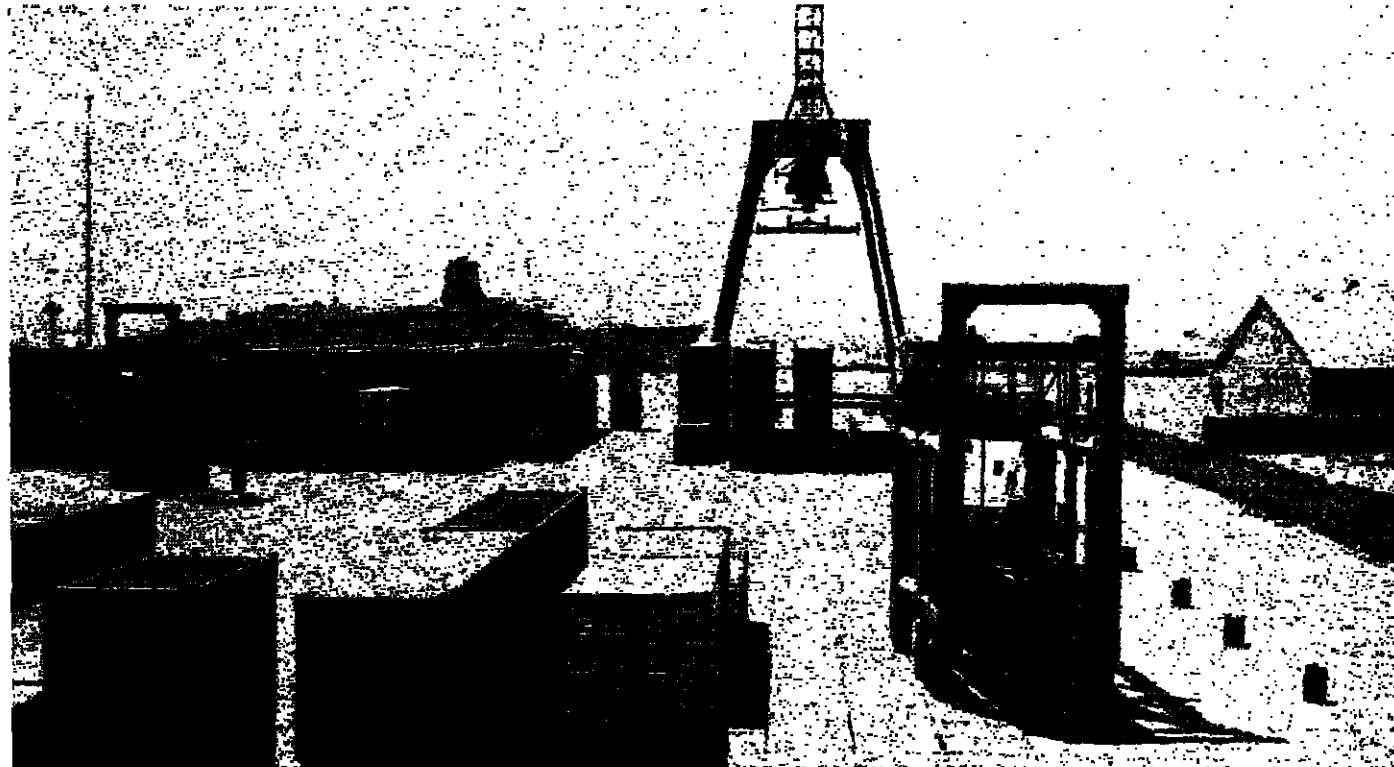
The work at Jeddah has been carried out by Dumez of France, with International Hydraulique Overseas of France as consultant, a SR417 million contract that involves clearing a once-dangerous channel into the port.

Nevertheless, Bakr says that the growth at Jeddah was for the development of Jeddah and the south: it "did not have a significant effect in reducing the volume of cargo handled at Jeddah Port."

So Jeddah soldiers on, handling 4,265 vessels and 12,528,000 tons of incoming cargo in 1979; a substantial increase over the 9,979,000 tons imported the year before. Twenty-six per cent of that was containerized, a gratifying figure for the SPA, which has long encouraged the use of containers. With those imports, 605,000 tons of goods were exported, an increase almost in proportion from 1978's 408,000 tons.

The imports were mainly in the form of general cargo, 5,121,000 tons, as opposed to the 3,919,000 tons of 1978. Containerized cargo followed, with 3,303,000 tons, as against the 2,345,000 tons of the year before. Ro-Ro cargo accounted for 290,000 tons, a decline from the 426,000 tons of 1978. Bagged cement imports collapsed from 1,549,000 tons in 1978 to 576,000 tons in 1979, with bulk cement increasing dramati-

(Continued on page 4)



Marshalling with straddle carrier at Jeddah Port, with a gantry crane in the background.

No longer a giant construction site

Jubail breaks the back of development

By Timothy Soley

JEDDAH — Basic works at the Jubail Commercial Port are finished. In the words of Hamad Saleh Al-Hawas, the port's director-general, "from being a big construction site, we are now starting to become the nucleus for many projects in the Jubail area."

The first stage of the commercial port was inaugurated in October 1977. Exactly SR9,189,100,302 later, quay walls have been completed in both the commercial and industrial harbors, a system of breakwaters protecting the port complex has been finished and several transit sheds, additional berths and nearly all buildings are completed.

Hawas says that last year 291 vessels and barges were handled at the port, bringing in 954,000 deadweight tons and taking 18,000 away. The comparable figures for the year before were 849,000 and 9,000 deadweight tons. Last year two per cent of all cargo was containerized, six per cent of what could be boxed. Ro-Ro cargo accounted for 2,000 tons, bulk cement for 567,000 and general cargo for 362,000 tons.

Hawas says that while in 1978 Jubail port was merely feeding its own development, "the situation changed rapidly in 1979." The completion of main works in the port complex and the increased rate of construction in the industrial complex and at the desalination plant meant that Jubail port started to do what it was meant to do, to help build the planned industrial city.

Jubail's commercial and industrial ports have been built almost from the ground up,

with the intention that by the time the city's projected petrochemical complexes and associated industries are in operation, the complex will be handling 5.3 million tons of cargo a year. The scale of the operation can be gauged not only from the figure for spending but also from there having been at one time 10,000 people at work.

This past year, Hawas says, nine deep water berths, the open sea tanker terminal and the six meters quay area in the industrial harbor were handed over to the authority.

In addition to that, contracts went out for complementary works in the commercial and industrial harbors, covering roads and paving, services, transit sheds and what is described as a "module import facility."

There is some satisfaction evident at what has been achieved. Hawas says that "the average turn-around time of vessels is extremely short. Excluding bulk cargo and containers, the average throughput is 1,500 to 1,600 tons per vessel per day, a high rate which is not achieved by many ports in the world."

That is carried out by "more than 1,000" people directly involved in cargo handling and distribution of 1,500 men involved in the stevedoring contract. The management of the operation takes 250 people.

So now Jubail is operating, Hawas says, at 63 per cent capacity, with the maximum estimated at 1.5 million tons a year. The only problem Hawas admits to having encountered over the past year is one in which he will find ready sympathy: "Communications, par-

ticularly telephone and telex."

"As a port, we need reliable links with nearly every place in the world to ensure smooth-running, streamlined operations providing fast turn-around of vessels and excellent cargo distribution. Today, the communications problem has been almost completely solved. The port now has two telex lines and direct telephone connections."

Hawas seems to feel the back of the work has been broken, seeing next year and the next five years more as a matter of consolidation, of putting the superstructure on top of a completed infrastructure.

The only major contracts that will be awarded in the near future cover floating craft. Next year's spending will not be in any kind of proportion to the money already dispensed: Hawas estimates it at SR950,557,622.

Clearly, Jubail is unlikely to cover its construction costs for many a long year. Hawas looks forward, though, to "a steady increase in tonnage to achieve the goal of financial self-sufficiency as soon as possible." At the moment, "revenue does not cover operating costs. However, we are endeavoring to achieve a balance at an early date."

The director-general's ambitions for the future are again a matter of perfecting what has been achieved so far. He would like to see "an increasing number of Saudi nationals who show an interest in this very challenging field" and "the continuous improvement of road connections to other parts of the Kingdom."

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Setting the seal on the 'Saudi box'

Bakr adds that "The Ports Authority is not

The box had four pairs of doors, one at

One significant advantage to lines and importers will be a greater speed in processing through ports. Reports have spoken of tightened customs inspection holding up shipments for the past six months, as well as of a danger of vessels being delayed because there are so many containers awaiting checking that they cannot unload.

Bakr denies that: "Customs checks have never delayed vessels discharging, because customs inspection is performed after the cargo has been landed."

No figures are available on Jeddah's operating income and expenditure, but Bakr does say that during the year ending in November, revenues increased by 34 per cent over those of the year before, while expenditure increased by only 14 per cent. Whatever the respective figures, it is clearly a move in the right direction.

At the moment it seems that when the Hal-crows contract is finished the fundamental expansion of the port it over for the time being, with work still to be done more a matter of the icing on the cake of handling efficiency. When the Third Plan does come, Bakr points out that the SPA's plans for the next five years will be "governed from year to year by the allocation of resources, but it will follow a logical development to provide a port system with every facility."

The fire-fighting installation contract, which started two and a half years ago and is scheduled for completion next year, is 66 per cent finished.

One major project is the ship repair yard for Jeddah. Two floating docks have been ordered for the yard. One, of 19,000 tons, is under construction at Blexen, near Hamburg, Bakr says, the other, of 11,000 tons, at Setebal in Portugal. On the site itself, reclamation work is four-fifths finished. Work has started on rock protection to the east of the

Jeddah construction steams ahead

(Continued from page 3)

The Oriental Commercial Est.
JEDDAH/DAMMAM
(SAUDI ARABIA)

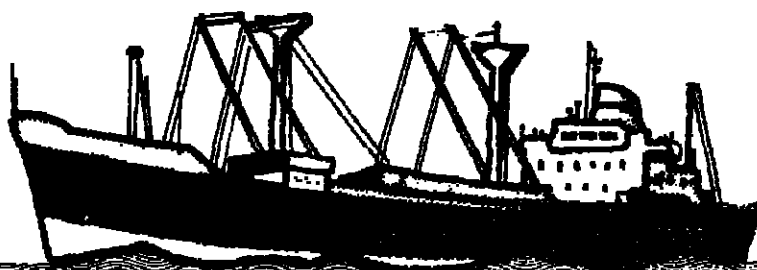
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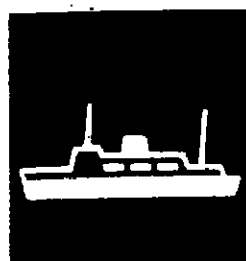
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Margins cut back to face competition

Shaping up or shipping out of the Jeddah run

By Timothy Slaley

JEDDAH — Shipping to Jeddah is not all roses. Margins are tight and the market is highly competitive. Nevertheless, shippers are still anxious to preserve their place in the market, even for the reduced profits that are available.

That, at least, is the consensus of shipping agents in Jeddah. According to one, Salah Satti, the shipping manager of the Arabian Establishment for Trade and Shipping, the market will continue to grow at between 15 and 20 per cent a year; paralleling, in other words, the growth he expects in imports through Jeddah.

Peter Petrides, the general manager of Alpha Trading and Shipping Agencies, agrees. He says the market is "stable and competitive," with exporters to Saudi Arabia nowadays able to shop around for seaborne carriers. It is "not so prosperous for the lines."

Prices are reduced as a result. Although costs of freight to Jeddah are still high in comparison with those to, say, England, margins are shaved increasingly closely. Petrides hazards an estimate of people being able to make only two-thirds of what they could four years ago.

M.M. Abbasi, the deputy manager of the Oriental Commercial Establishment, another agent, has "noticed that lines are still quite keen. It may not be as profitable as three years ago, but it is still profitable."

So stability characterizes what was once chaos. Where once lines scrambled to take a slice of the market, where once fortunes were made on single deals and where once the pandemonium of the port throttled the ordered development of the economy, growth rates have moderated and reason has replaced unreason. Things have settled down.

Much the same picture emerges of shipping services provided at Jeddah. A substantial

bunkering market has grown up, prospering on the availability of fuel from the refinery and using Saudi Arabian vessels to serve ships calling at Saudi Arabian ports.

Petrostar, which claims to be the largest bunkering concern in Jeddah, sold 700,000 tons of bunker fuel during 1979, according to its financial controller, Fayez Shoubaki. National Bunkering sold a similar volume, 26 per cent of the total in the port, its manager John Fiambolis says. On that figure, 2.8 million tons of fuel were sold in Jeddah last year.

The Arabian Establishment for Trade and Shipping believes it is the biggest ships' agents in the Western Region, in terms both of turnover of cash and turnover of vessels. It is part of a holding company called the Saudi Investment Group and Marketing, owned by the sons of Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal. Prince Abdullah brought out the operation in Jeddah of Gellady-Hankey in 1963, after a decree saying that no foreign company could work as an agent.

That grew to today's turnover of an average 75 ships a month, with 839 handled in 1979 and 705 in 1978. The firm now has agencies in Jeddah. Forty per cent of the containers entering Jeddah, Satti says, are in the charge of the company. In addition, his firm handles the three or so Soviet ships a month that come to Jeddah, their crews forbidden to leave the vessel.

Satti, a volatile Sudanese, is sanguine about the market. "Everyone wants part of the trade," he says. In 1978 and early the fierce competition for routes to the Kingdom drove some Italian and Greek lines into bankruptcy, but those days are over. Recent surcharges on bunkering and the currency adjustment factor, allowing for the changes in the value of the United States dollar against the rial, have alleviated some of the tightness in costs.

Rates to Jeddah are lower than other Red Sea ports, and Dr. Fayez Badr, the president of the Saudi Ports Authority, has been stern in this warnings to international conferences not to raise freight to Saudi Arabia alone. Lines claim that they are only just breaking even. Satti is skeptical. "International freight is moving up slightly, but there is still more tonnage than demand. If they say they are breaking even now, then they are doing fine."

Petrides of Alpha says the same: "There is a lot of cargo coming here. It is a good business, especially the container business."

His company acts both as a commission agent and a shipping agent, for the former suggesting it is the largest in the country, representing wholesalers for food by purchasing as a middleman. That accounts for 60 per cent of a turnover of \$400 million. In shipping, the firm handled 300 vessels last year. The company, capitalized at SR1 million, is owned by Sheikh Abdul Qader Al-Fadl.

Lines may not like the situation, but Petrides does. One of the effects of the tight market that he describes as "healthy" is that

on shore the smaller and less efficient agencies will be forced out of business. Since the reorganization of the Kingdom's ports, agents have been compelled to pull up their socks: lines nowadays shop around for service. There are still too many, though, and slower growth and more discrimination should be good for everyone.

Oriental's Abbasi says that "all agents are handling a reasonable quantity" of vessels, a situation that will continue for at least a couple of years. All the same, "there is so much competition among agencies now that ships are being handled at a more competitive rate."

His company looks after 30 ships a month in Jeddah, and also has offices in Yanbu and Dammam. Abbasi says that 80 per cent of the total volume of frozen cargo coming through Jeddah also comes through his firm. The company also has a trading department that is being given greater emphasis, as well as a bunkering division. Owned by Abdul Hamid Bukhari, Oriental has the number six commercial registration in the Kingdom.

The firm owns three frozen cargo vessels, as a minor partner in a joint venture with the Greek Overseas Reefer Corporation. It also has five tankers of between 1,800 and 2,000 tons for its bunkering operations.

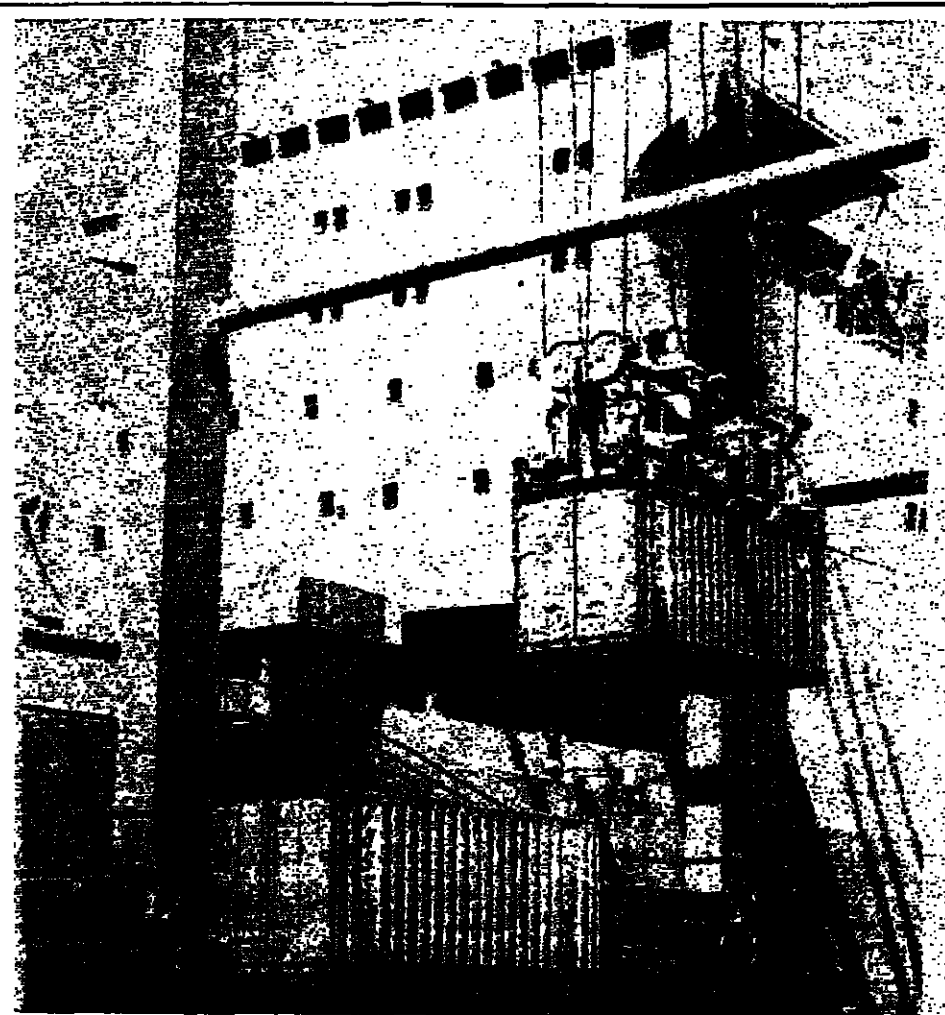
The thing about bunkering in Jeddah is not that it is cheap, but that it is to be had at all. Fiambolis of National Bunkering says that the first two months of this year saw a definite upturn in the bunkering market. A rate of growth of between 15 and 20 per cent has been notched up.

Bunkering in Jeddah is carried out by private companies, buying from the Jeddah Oil Refinery Company, a state-owned subsidiary of Petromin. The buying price is a secret, but at the moment the official selling price, at delivery on board, is \$165 a ton for fuel oil and \$363 a ton of diesel.

Fiambolis says that the price differential between the Kingdom and other parts of the world is nothing significant, "maybe today \$2, maybe tomorrow \$20." At the moment bunkering is approximately the same as in north-west Europe, and perhaps slightly more expensive. But what matters is that an owner can be sure of getting it.

National Bunkering last year sold 700,000 tons in Jeddah, the only port where it operates, making a total in sales of SR300 million. The company has eight vessels, four on charter to the Jeddah Oil Refinery Company and four working in the port. The chartered four go to "Ras Tanura, Greece, wherever, when the JORC imports for the Western Region." In Jeddah the firm has storage tankers of 50,000 tons and distribution vessels of 1,000 tons.

The company began in 1977, part of the Mazan Pharaon Group. Each vessel has a separate company within the group. The bunkering side of the company now has a



Containers being discharged.

workforce of 45 people ashore and 75 crew men, and "maybe 500 customers."

Petrostar agrees that the bunkering market is growing. Last year's shortages in other ports helped Jeddah become attractive, and Shoubaki now speaks highly of the quality of Jeddah fuel helping customers stay. Now "all ships that come to Jeddah bunker," and so do many that are just passing.

In the immediate region, Shoubaki says, Jeddah bunkering is \$4 or \$5 a ton cheaper than that of other ports. Last year his firm supplied 1,000 ships in Jeddah and 400 in Dammam, selling a total 1.5 million tons of fuel. The firm is owned by Sheikh Ahmad Zainy, Sheikh Abdullah Abber, with Sheikh Abdul Rahman Mansour of the Foreign Affairs Ministry as a sleeping partner. It was founded in 1972, and its bunkering activities now include transporting clean products from the Jeddah refinery to bulk storage in Jizan, Yanbu and Dhuba. That last serves Tabuk.

The company used to carry crude, fuel oil and diesel from Ras Tanura to Jeddah, but it lost that contract. It now owns 14 vessels, named the Petrostars 1 to 14, four barges for storage, three tugs and ten launches and it has one 16,500 ton tanker on charter.

The overall picture is of an increasingly strong shipping business, prospering on competition rather than easy money. Nor does it seem, either, that Jeddah is in any way losing


out to the development of Yanbu and Jizan ports.

Although Jizan recorded a 50 per cent increase to 1,097,000 freight tons in cargo handled during the year to November, it seems clear from the comments of officials that most importers are still using Jeddah and the roads south. No loss of traffic is recorded at Jeddah, and it may be that the efficiency of the Kingdom's major port will continue to make it attractive for some time to come.

Not only do vessels passing Jeddah call in for bunkering, but the pattern seems increasingly to be being adopted of ships making the triple voyage down the coast to Yanbu, Jeddah and Jizan, taking advantage of their proximity.

In Jeddah port, construction work nearing completion will provide 45 berths by 1981. That is being carried out on a SR3.71 billion contract under Sir William Halcrow and Partners by Archirodon of Greece, Skanska of Sweden and Grands Travaux de Marseille International. The experts disagree over whether that will be enough, Peat, Marwick and Mitchell of Britain predicting 30 per cent surplus capacity by 1982 and Hanseatic Port System and Planco Consulting of West Germany suggesting an overall shortage of capacity in the Kingdom by 1984.

And the shipping agents? Satti gives an expressive sweep of the hand: "Needs for the next 20 years are covered by capacity both in berths and in handling," he declares.



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Number two tries just as hard

Dammam bestrides the eastern shore

By Gregory Llewellyn

DA MMAM — Twelve years ago Dammam port might have been listed among the less cherished antiquities of Saudi Arabia. Joined to the mainland by a causeway more than six kilometers long, the port received a total of 554 ships which discharged 682,787 tons of merchandise.

Today it has been transformed beyond recognition. A massive reclamation project has dredged 56 million cubic meters of Gulf mud. Eighteen warehouses, totalling 103,350 square meters, a grain silo with a capacity of 80,000 tons, four berths each 240 meters long, for container operations, and three Ro-Ro (roll-on-roll-off) ramps have been constructed. Dammam now boasts a total of 38 operational berths divided between its East and West Ports: 22 berths on the two quays of the East Port, the other 16 on the two quays of the West Port.

South of East Port, a harbor with 1,630 meters of quayside has been built for small craft and barges. Bulk cement is discharged into one of two silos, one with a capacity of 21,000 tons, moored permanently at Berth 21 in the East Port, the other at Berth 35 of the West Port. Last year witnessed the reconstruction of the buoy system which services the port of Dammam. Ships are now guided into port through an eight mile channel with the aid of fixed beacons and 25 pilots, available 24 hours a day.

Last year 2,260 ships docked at Dammam. Of the 8.75 million dead weight tons of cargo unloaded, there were 379,000 of bulk grain and nearly three million of cement (both bulk and bagged). More than three million tons of



Dammam's Suleiman Muhanna

goods come from Japan, not much less than the total for Europe and North America combined. Vehicles accounted for less than two per cent of the dead weight tonnage.

The Kingdom's second port which handles approximately 40 per cent of its maritime imports.

The transformation of the port, now generally acknowledged to be the most modern and efficient in the Gulf ranks as one of the most successful development schemes undertaken in the kingdom to date. Starting next month, its employment of sophisticated computer techniques to record statistics and facilitate ship reservations will put it among

the most advanced port facilities anywhere in the world.

Suleiman Al-Muhanna, director-general of Dammam Port, has given two reasons beyond massive building programs for the increased efficiency which the last two years have seen: greater quayside mechanization integrated and stevedoring.

"One operator is put in charge of the entire discharging operation from ship to consignee. In a day, for example, one contractor will handle eight vessels, offload, tally the cargo and see it to storage or delivery... Under the former system, the work was parcelled out, usually to three groups. Agents did the stevedoring, another contractor would handle the cargo from quay to warehouse and the port came in for the delivery. Everyone merely protected himself and his own special interest. Coordination between the three was minimal. It was like three cooks running around a big hot pot in a small kitchen."

Port efficiency at Dammam is enhanced by improved transport links to the mainland: a new dual carriageway built on a widened causeway has been completed from the port entrance to the intersection with the coastal highway between Dammam and Al-Khobar.

But Dammam improvements do not eclipse other port activity in the area. Ras Tanura remains the biggest tanker port in the world. In 1978, that year for which comprehensive figures are available, it handled the lion's share of the oil exported from the Kingdom: 3,352 ships weighed anchor that year with more than 2.65 billion barrels of crude oil and 195 million barrels of oil products aboard.

The planned industrial city of Jubail has only six operational berths, but the port, for which Sir William Halcrow and Partners was in 1974 appointed consulting engineers for design and construction, will eventually cope with five million tons annually.

The hundreds of shipping lines which serve the Eastern Province are represented by a handful of agents, the most important of which are Kanoo, Alireza, IACC, Gulf and SIAFE. Kanoo, with 2,000 employees in the Eastern Province alone, represents approximately 40 per cent of the lines which ply the route in and out of Dammam.

With the expansion of Dammam Port, which employs directly 2,100 as administrative and technical staff and another 5,000 through contractors such as Sakos, ICC and BCO, who supply stevedores, and the development of Jubail, is there any danger that the Eastern Province will be top heavy in port facilities?

Optimism runs high in shipping circles that business is on the upswing. "The future is rosy," one agent declared without a quiver of doubt.

There is some evidence to support this sanguine attitude: the ports are operating at near-full capacity. One must bear in mind that Arabia will remain for years to come heavily dependent on imports, 90 per cent of all requirements.

Houston feeds among the lilies of export trade to Saudi Arabia

By Shirley Kowitz
Houston Bureau

HOUSTON — Money begets money. It is only natural to see the rising prosperity of Saudi Arabia and imagine the evidence of one's eyes to show all there is to show, but prosperity in the Kingdom means jobs and prosperity in the countries that feed the Kingdom.

Saudi Arabia has become the leading customer of the port of Houston, in Texas, beating Japan and West Germany. Shipping to Saudi Arabia has helped send the port into the major leagues. During 1979 Houston's shippers sent and took a total of \$1.45 billion to the Kingdom.

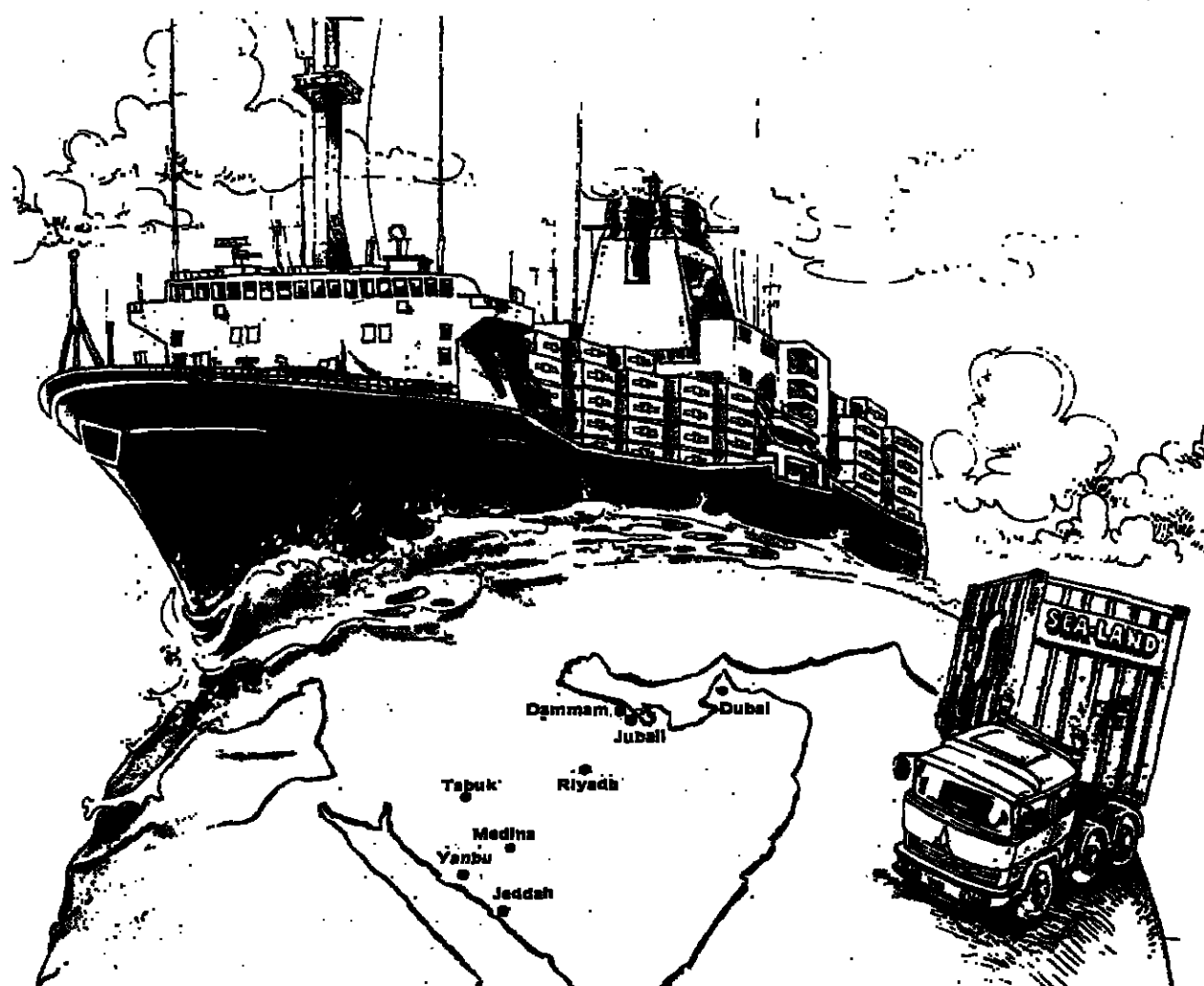
Oil, of course, was the major part of the exchange. Houston received 12 million tons of Saudi crude during the year, \$1.036 billion of it, according to C.A. Rouser, the port's director of trade development.

In an exchange that might almost be read as a bushel for a barrel, food exports headed

the list of the \$421 million of American goods sent the Kingdom through the port. Wheat accounted for \$3 million in value, with 29,000 tons moved, and rice for \$16 million, or 26,000 tons.

In dollar terms, the largest Saudi Arabian imports from Houston were in construction equipment 7,000 tons valued at more than \$35 million. Plant parts for construction followed with 4,700 tons valued at \$23 million; air conditioning machinery, 6,800 tons valued at \$21 million; special vehicles valued at \$16 million; and finished structural parts of iron and steel, 10,000 tons valued at \$19 million.

The top ten countries in combined import and export volume to Houston were Saudi Arabia; Japan with \$1.405 billion; West Germany with \$1.065 billion; Mexico with \$825 million; Brazil with \$785 million; Iran with \$727 million; Nigeria with \$528 million; Britain with \$510 million; Algeria with \$464 million; and the Soviet Union with \$450 million.



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مكتبة الإصدار

Quickly State-supported line plans Atlantic service

By Nigel Harvey

JEDDAH — Saudi Arabia wants to move to capture the shipping trade to its shores, and does not seem prepared to hang around.

A new board of the state-backed Saudi National Shipping Company has put off plans for a joint venture with the Maersk Line of Denmark, a move that would have meant setting up a SR35 million firm, introducing a major training program and setting Saudi-green container vessels to ply the sea-roads to the United States.

The SNSC wants to get things moving sooner, and the deal's letter of intent has been postponed in favor of new negotiations.

"We are still talking," said the SNSC's general manager, Soren Juell; "We are still friends." The hunt is now on, with Maersk and other, for a quicker means of introducing the new SNSC's first service, without having to wait two to three years for new ships to be built.

There are four options: wait; find other ships but ageing ships to convert; seek the improbable, a supply of newish, suitable vessels on the market; or charter in the interim.

Waiting, Juell says, is "unacceptable" to a new board, as it was to the old, and the 3,000 eager shareholders in the SR500 million stock company for which, unlike IAPCO, no dividend has been guaranteed. The SNSC was formed last year and is a quarter owned by the Public Investment Fund. Thirty per cent went to 38 prominent founding businessmen, headed by Prince Muhammad bin Fahd; the rest was snapped up by the public in an oversubscribed rush.

Conversion has been effectively ruled out. It was precisely the eleven years of age of the bulk cargo and loaded container ships which Maersk was to sell the joint venture for \$3.75 million that offended the new board. The ships were to be converted for \$12 million by the Japanese yard Hitachi Zosen into cellular container vessels, each with a capacity of 1,235 standard, 20 foot containers or the equivalent.

Financing was to come from the partners or the market. "This way," the SNSC said earlier this year, "we're in business in six months and get the ships at half price."

But old ships, even the well maintained, have problems. "we feel we don't want to start life with old ships," the company says now. The newer the vessels, the less economical their conversion.

The company is now seeking newer vessels that fit the bill for charter or sale. It is "taking another look" too at a U.S.-Arabia service set to run with Maersk from May before the converted ships were to appear from October.

The new board, however, decided at its first meeting at the beginning of the month to retain the immediate goal of a U.S.-Arabia



Dr. Mansour Al-Turki

container service while furthering several more: passenger, bulk and livestock services.

The seven-man board is now headed by Muhammad Al-Sugair, vice chairman of the Saudi Fund for Development and former assistant deputy finance minister for budgetary affairs. He replaced former Deputy Minister of Finance and National Economy Dr. Mansour Al-Turki, now Riyadh University's rector.

Jamil Rassah from the Ministry of Commerce and Ahmad Yusuf Al-Turki from the Ministry of Communications retain their seats.

But shareholder elections for the four public seats last month led to some changes. Ali Hussein Shobokshi and Abdullah Ali Kanoo remained but were joined by Hussein Mohsen Al-Harithy, chairman of Nadoo, and Ghazi Naser, managing director of the Payez trading and shipping agency in Jeddah. They replaced Ahmad Juffali and Abdul Ali Sulaiman.

The original board had been appointed for eighteen months to oversee the company's formation, finalized last year.

The SNSC has focussed its initial efforts, on the U.S.-Middle East container run, following the recommendations of the U.N. Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization. IMCO also helped the company recruit staff for its new Riyadh headquarters, including Juell, a Norwegian and the finance manager P.V. Narayan, formerly with the Indian state shipping organization.

Juell said IMCO suggested the North America run would be the most accessible and immediately profitable of the three main container lines the company intends to tackle. The other two are to Japan and Europe.

The company is going ahead on its container program. It will probably investigate shipyards to build at least five ships for the North American run. Each would cost around \$30 million, but with feasibility studies already having indicated profitability, financing should prove simple. International shipyards generally offer 80 per cent loans at eight per cent over eight years, although the rates fluctuate.

"The Middle East," says the SNSC's marketing manager David Knight, "is on the normal trade routes, which makes it very competitive. And we have to be very competitive, so it requires a lot of marketing."

Saudi Arabia lines now only handle around five per cent of the Kingdom's own shipping. This will grow, but only with care. "You have to operate the ships to match the cargo," Juell says.

The company is now starting to study the bulk trade and new ferry services in the Red Sea between Jeddah, Suez and Hodeida. Smaller unprofitable services may eventually be requested by the government, which will

Downstream all the way Saudi tankers skim a share of the traffic

By a Staff Writer

JEDDAH — Ten years ago, there were no tankers owned by Saudis. Although things have changed to some degree, it is clear that one of the most volatile and risky businesses in which it is possible to be involved is still, not surprisingly, proving difficult for the newcomer.

Often, after massive investment, the entrepreneur finds that either there is an oil glut and he cannot make money transporting it, or that there is a shortage and he cannot fill his ships. The tanker market has been the downfall of perhaps more investors than any other business. In 1975 and 1976, for example, demand for tankers plummeted just as the large ships were entering the market.

It is daunting, but, the fact remains that Saudi Arabia, as the world's leading exporter of oil, has potential as a shipper. Mobil, which has proved itself an eager investor in Saudi Arabia's plan to move downstream (it is involved in an export refinery at Yanbu on which final agreement was recently reached, in the construction of the East-West Crude Oil Pipeline and in a refinery in Jeddah, among other ventures) has invested in a Saudi tanker fleet.

Known as Samarco, or the Saudi Marine Co. Ltd, the firm was established in 1974. It now owns a fleet of both tankers and regular freighters with a capacity of nearly one million deadweight tons. Mobil has a minority share in the company, which is 55 per cent Saudi-owned. Samarco has three VLCCs (tankers of 100,000 dwt capacities). Samarco has not had an easy time in the tanker business. It is now just able to break even and the Saudi partner has not yet realized a significant return on his investment.

It was in the yearly 1970s that Saudi investors and companies began negotiations with Mobil and Caltex and with Mitsui of Japan, among others, for joint venture agreements to enter the shipping business. The story of Saudi tankers begins a bit earlier.

On Aug. 5, 1968, Petromin, the state-owned oil company, established Petromin Tankers and Mineral Shipping Company, or Petroship, as a Saudi joint stock company. The aim of the company, according to Petromin, was "to achieve integration in the Saudi oil industry and to cater to the need for oil and mineral transport facilities," as similar line of reasoning to that which is behind the kingdom's attempt to move downstream in the oil business with its gas-gathering system and petrochemical plants at the industrial cities under construction at Jubail and Yanbu.

The company was set up with a modest goal initially: to transport crude from one Saudi seaport to another and only eventually to move into the world market. The company has three tankers, including two 41,000 dwt capacity tankers known as Petroship A and Petroship B, and the 27,000 dwt capacity tanker, Taiba. The three ships sail from the Eastern Province to the Jeddah refinery at the moment. It is hoped that when the time is right, they will move into greater waters.

After the establishment of Petroship, there was a hiatus of several years before Saudi Arabia took another step into the tanker business. In 1973, the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) set up the Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Company (AMPTCO) which began taking delivery in 1975.

AMPTCO's first ship to fly the Saudi flag was launched in June of 1979. Named after the oil and gas field which is the site of the first stage of the gas gathering system to be completed, the Berr is 227 meters long and has a liquid gas carrying capacity of 75,000 cubic meters. It was built at a cost of \$60 million, an indication of the size of investment the business demands, by the Chantiers de l'Atlantique of France.

AMPTCO now has a fleet of eight tankers with a capacity of slightly more than two million deadweight tons.



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New syndicate to trade next year

Arab Gulf insurers mobilize against the war risk

By Nigel Harvey

RIYADH — The marine insurance companies of the Arab Gulf states are finding a collective strength on the London market. What brought them together was the argument over the war risk premiums on vessels using the Gulf, and they may be winning.

Twenty five marine insurance companies from around the Gulf met in Abu Dhabi last month finally to thrash out an agreement to set up The Arab War Risks Insurance Syndicate. Through bulk reinsurance this could have considerable impact on the price of ship and cargo war risk cover, and ultimately on consumer costs.

The syndicate has left the rest of the year to forge its bureaucracy and build confidence among potential clients. The syndicate expects premiums totalling \$ 10 million or \$ 12 million in its first year of trading, 1981. Even these initial volumes should give the

syndicate considerable room to manoeuvre a discount from London's underwriters. Last year, for example, OAPC's tanker fleet in the Arab Maritime Petroleum Tanker Corporation received a ten per cent discount for hull and machinery cover.

This experience and others, says Ahmad Hussain Abdullah, who is chairman of the Saudi Insurance Commission, "shows that collective approaches save much money."

The key to the syndicate's expected success and to the volumes of trade it will be taking to London for reinsurance is the expansion from hull and machinery to cargo war risk cover. This is charged at a standard rate of 0.0375 per cent of a consignment's value during shipment to most parts of the world, including the Gulf.

Cargo war risk cover has not been subject to additional premiums like those introduced for hull and machinery cover in the Gulf last

year. Iran-bound cargo, however, was earlier this year faced with an additional war risk premium. That still stands.

"Most of the goods imported are insured here," Abdullah says. Shippers insuring their goods through the Arab syndicate will initially pay the standard market rates, and the risk will be underwritten by the syndicate.

"Savings will come from reinsurance. There's going to be a rebate."

In 1978 a similar Far Eastern cargo war risk insurance group forced the London war risk rates for the area to halve from 0.05 per cent of the cargo's value.

The idea of a Gulf war risk club of some kind has been afloat since August, when London's underwriters first slapped on an additional war risk premium on Gulf shipping. There were angry reactions around the Gulf.

The Association of Lloyd's Underwriters (individuals) and the Institute of London Underwriters (companies), which together represent the lion's share of world insurance, imposed the additional premium on hull and machinery cover after comments, some by Saudi Arabia's Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, about possible blockage of the Straits of Hormuz and, in particular, a United States government warning of possible hijacking.

War risk cover is normally built into standard policies, with a premium of 0.025 per cent of the vessel's estimated value. In August gulf ships were being charged this basic rate for only two weeks' cover. In addition the market charged 0.1 per cent of the ship's vessel for cover against "entrapment" in the Gulf.

The entrapment premium particularly mystified war risk specialists, who declared blockage of the 40 mile wide, 350 foot deep Straits of Hormuz improbable. "You'd have to start sinking an awful lot of metal to block the Straits," said one skeptic after poring over the charts. "It's like asking how many tankers it would take to block the English Channel."

The premiums were strongly opposed not just in the Gulf but also by shippers and shipowners, including most of the war risk insurance clubs which pool and reinsure the risk to gain cheaper rates.

Within a month the underwriters backed down and withdrew the premiums, thanks largely to a delegation of Gulf insurers lobbying the leading marine underwriters in London. They said the risks had been severely exaggerated.

But the underwriters kept the gulf on its predominantly Middle Eastern list of war risks. This meant that although the additional premiums were waived, they could be reintroduced without the customary two weeks' notice.

In November, the additional premiums were back. They shot up to exceptionally high levels of 0.5 per cent of a vessel's value for two weeks' cover, with an extra 0.1 per cent

for ships bound for Iran.

The bulk of these premiums was made up by an optional charge to cover the risk of detention in the Gulf. This option, unlike its entrapment predecessor, was largely being taken by ship owners. Detention is usually covered in war risk policies.

All policies are particular, both in their terms and in the rates charged. Underwriters are free to charge any additional premium once a vessel seeks cover in a war risk area, but they generally follow leading underwriters.

Premiums are subject to daily review but generally remain stable. Beirut and Tripoli cost 0.375 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively for 48 hours. South of Sidon and Cambodia premiums are only quoted on application.

The Suez Canal premium is 0.0875 per cent, Angola 0.05 per cent; those of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Gulf of Aqaba 0.025 per cent. All these are for a week's cover but the Suez premium is in fact only charged once a year as underwriters reason stays are generally short.

The model ILU policy covers against losses from: "capture, seizure, arrest, restraint or detention; hostilities, warfare operations, civil war, revolution, rebellion, insurrection or civil strife; mines, torpedoes, bombs or other engines or war, strikers, locked-out workmen... Labor disturbances, riots or civil commotion..." and persons acting maliciously.

But it excludes losses arising from nuclear weapons, war whether or not declared between any of Britain, America, France, Russia and China, "prequisition and pre-emption", capture or seizure by the government of the country where the vessel is registered or owned, and any detention because of an infringement of customs regulations.

The Arab Syndicate's members will meet again at the end of this month to appoint an executive committee and a company from among them to manage its operations.

Membership is open to all Arab-owned insurance companies. Kuwait, though, has stayed out, feeling its companies can argue effectively alone.

London's underwriters have been cynical over a Gulf war risk insurance club, claiming the Gulf fleet too small to spread the risks, particularly since it is largely made up of a hundred-odd highly valuable tankers. The loss of only one would severely strain the club's resources.

The problem remains, but with the added trade of cargo insurance, the new syndicate will be considerably larger with greater financial resources and a greater clout for reinsurance.

Reports from the Abu Dhabi meeting, however, suggested that several Gulf governments (Iraq and Bahrain were mentioned) have indicated willingness to take over some of the underwriting if necessary. It is believed that they might lobby other governments to do the same.



Jeddah Port from the air

Industry in the air

Yanbu Port opens wide its doors

By a Staff Writer

YANBU — There is an air of satisfaction in the offices of Yanbu's commercial port. Until as late as 1976, the tiny city's harbor had two berths. It is now shouldering much of the burden of imports for the construction of the Yanbu industrial complex.

After massive expansion, there are now nine berths, a harbor entrance doubled to 200 meters to handle large freighters, seven warehouses with an area of 4,500 square meters, an open storage area of 470,000 square meters and a total capacity of 2.7 million deadweight tons a year.

The reef that stretches along Saudi Arabia's coast breaks just off Yanbu, making it one of the best natural harbors in the Kingdom. It was for centuries the first step to Medina for pilgrims coming by sea and the town of around 30,000 people is now the site of one of the world's most ambitious development projects under construction 20 kilometers to the south of the town center.

In November of 1979, virtually the entire government of Saudi Arabia came to Yanbu to dedicate the industrial complex in what was one of the most spectacular official occasions in the country's history, ranking in pomp and ceremony with the 1977 dedication of Jubail, and last summer's durbar in Abha when 14,000 tribesmen marched past the Royal Diwan.

There are 1,000 employees at the port, 60 per cent of whom are from Yanbu. Most of the work is, not surprisingly, moving cargo for the industrial complex. One berth at the port, leased to Ghath Pharaoh's Redec, handles the removal and bagging of cement for the site, at a rate of 3,700 tons a day.

There are to be ports as well at the industrial complex itself. Saudi Arabia plans for the first time to export oil from a port on the Red Sea, thereby bypassing the Straits of Hormuz. At a cost of \$ 1.64 billion, the

East-West crude Oil Pipeline is being built from the oilfields of the Eastern Province to a 1.85 million barrels a day terminal at the industrial complex from which the oil will be loaded directly onto tankers or sent to the refineries planned for Yanbu.

The pipeline, which is 48 inches in diameter, will be one of the two largest in the world with the Alaska Pipeline. It will eventually carry, according to the Minister of Planning Hisham Nazer's statement at the Yanbu dedication, as much as three million barrels a day. Petroline, a subsidiary of Petrotrin, is to handle the construction and management of the pipeline. Brown and Root of Houston directed the design and engineering and the Mobil Overseas Pipeline Company of Dallas is the construction manager.

At the commercial port of Yanbu Af-Bahr the effects of the much-vaulted reorganization of Dr. Fayed Badr, president of the Saudi Ports Authority, can be clearly seen. There is a place for everything and everything is in its place. When ships were lined up literally for miles at Jeddah port, Dr. Badr took drastic action, the expansion of the Yanbu port being one tactic to take the heat off Jeddah. He introduced a system of rebates, where importers who are on the docks when the ship comes in and who remove their goods in their own vehicles are given a 50 per cent rebate on the port charges. Hence, the empty space at the Yanbu warehouses, the tidy neat service roads and the uncluttered quays.

It has succeeded not only in bringing down the prices of goods in the cities of Yanbu, Medina and other northern towns, but also in eliminating most of the cost of overseas transport.

Such efficiency has its cost. Dr. Badr has predicted that Saudi ports will one day pay for themselves. At the moment they are heavily subsidized. Cost per deadweight ton for handling are now at an average of SR32. The ports authority charges importers only SR15

Charts commissioned

A way through Red Sea reefs

By Scott Pendleton

JEDDAH — Shipping in the Red Sea will soon be much safer as a result of a project commissioned by the Saudi Ports Authority. The coral reefs of the Red Sea, the delight of scuba divers, are a peril to shippers, a threat that has increased with traffic.

Shipping movements to the Kingdom multiplied several times when imports began to take off to fuel the development of the First and Second Five-year Plans.

When Yanbu comes on stream, and the Kingdom begins exporting more than just crude oil, traffic to and from the Red Sea ports will increase even more.

To help ships navigate more safely, the Saudi Ports Authority has contracted Georeda, a joint venture of Geotek and an Alireza company, to conduct a hydrographic survey of the Kingdom's Red Sea coastal waters from Jizan to Jordan.

The information will be used to design new charts.

"Most charts of the Red Sea are terribly out of date," says Tom Soper, vice president of Saudi Arabian Tetra Tech, a joint venture of Tetra Tech of the United States and Assem Pharaon. Tetra Tech is providing geodetic and oceanographic support to Georeda for the Red Sea study.

Some existing charts are based on ancient data. For instance, the navigation charts for the waters around Jeddah are based in part on information gathered in 1876. Except for minor updates, the charts for the Red Sea are largely drawn from information no more recent than 1912.

"As shipping increases, better charts become vital," Soper says.

Not only the number of ships, but their size, requires that the charts be completely

redrawn. Today's supertankers may draw 30 meters of water — undreamt of when the charts were drawn. Reefs that could rip the bottom out of an oil tanker may have been thought to be too deep to bother charting at the turn of the century.

Georeda will survey the 2,200 kilometers of Saudi Arabia's western coastal waters in six sections. But before that can begin, Tetra Tech will have to start its geodetic support work.

Tetra Tech will place concrete monuments at approximately 10 kilometer intervals down the length of the coast. Because the shoreline lacks distinguishing landmarks, the monuments are necessary as reference points for the hydrographic survey.

After Tetra Tech places the monuments, it will determine their latitude and longitude using a combination of satellites and computers. The U.S. Navy has a Navigation Satellite System (NNS) of four satellites constantly radiating their locations. This information is updated once a day to keep the orbital data accurate.

Tetra Tech will place a satellite antenna system at the monuments to pick up the NNS broadcasts. Then using the Doppler shift, a computer can calculate the monument's map coordinates.

Over three days this will be done about 35 times. The positions recorded will be within a few meters of each other, in as if a shotgun spread. The computer will then calculate a statistical mean position from these, which will then be used by Georeda to align the hydrographic survey with the coast.

Tetra Tech has already placed 19 monuments from Jeddah south to within 50 kilometers of Lith. In the city, the company uses a building or some other existing structure in place of a concrete monument.

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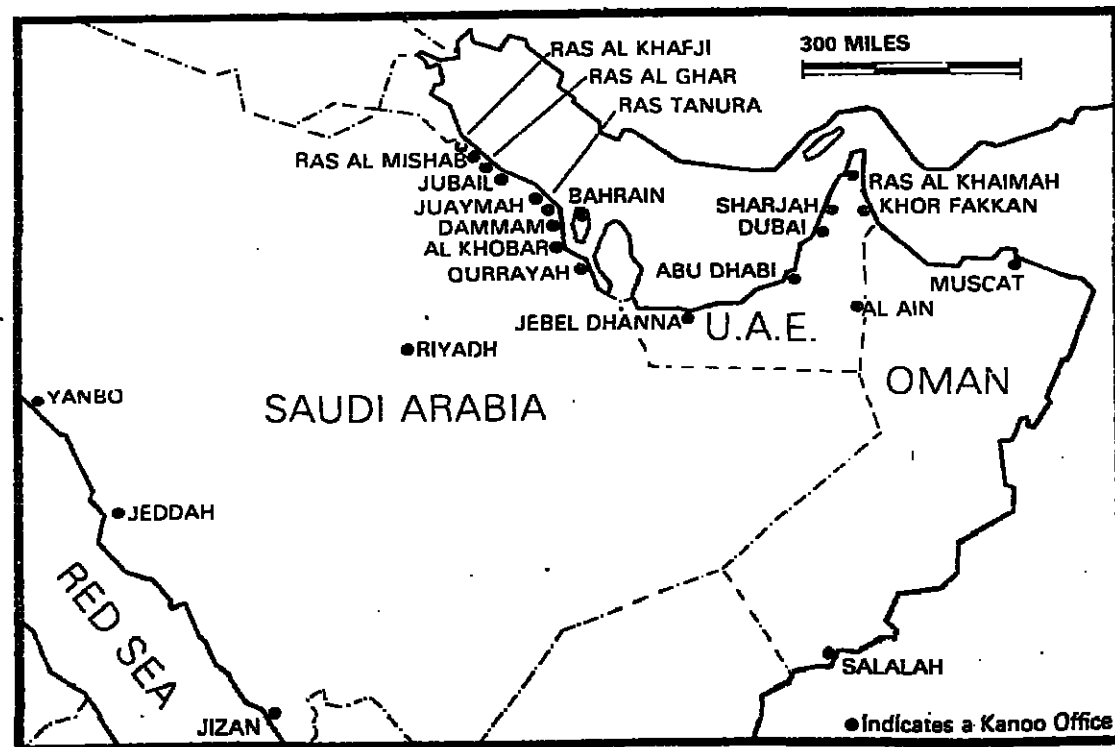
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